MADISON SWIMMERS SWEEP EVERY EVENT **PAGE B1**

# THE MADISON COURIER

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2024

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## Ivy Tech Madison has HLC approval for Veterinary Nursing

BY THE COURIER STAFF

Ivy Tech Community College Madison has received approval for its Veterinary Nursing Program by the university's institutional accreditor, the Higher Learning Commission (HLC).

This groundbreaking program is the first and only veterinary nursing program offered across all 19 Ivy Tech locations, marking a significant milestone for the institution and the community. The official program launch is

scheduled for August 2025.

The program will also pursue accreditation approval from the American Veterinary Medical Association Committee on Veterinary Technical Education and Activities (CVTEA) and the National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America (NAVTA).

Ivy Tech Madison will offer an associate-degree-level veterinary nursing program and a veterinary technician certificate.

Students enrolled in the program will pursue licensure as registered veterinary technicians (RVTs) and gain hands-on experience working in veterinary practices, laboratories, and agribusiness/bioscience industries.

The program will be led by Dr. Melissa Newcomb, DVM. Newcomb brings more than 20 years of veterinary experience, as well as more than 17 years of experience in education.

"The approval of this program

reflects Ivy Tech's commitment to meeting workforce demands and offering exceptional opportunities for our students," said Kay Stokes, Ivy Tech Madison Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs.

The development of the veterinary program is being supported by a \$5.9 million READI grant from the Indiana Economic Development Corporation that was awarded by Our Southern Indiana Regional Development Authority in 2022

to Hanover College and Ivy Tech Madison to collaborate in launching a veterinary medicine program.

Hanover College is planning a School of Veterinary Medicine and Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Program — a proposed \$16.5 million project that includes construction/renovation and furnishing of buildings on the Hanover College campus in addition to the hiring of doctoral-level faculty and associated staff.

### Reindeer Games



Children laughed while being entertained by the Grinch on Friday as Hanover Parks Department hosted its inaugural Reindeer Games at the Hanover Community Center.



Kolten Heath (right), 9, Hanover, and other children decorate cookies with help from Betty Carlton of Hanover during the Reindeer Games held Friday at the Hanover Community Center.

### Nyberg leaving role with Public Arts Commission

BY BOB DEMAREE

Kim Nyberg wrapped up her time as chair of the city of Madison's Public Arts Commission at its last meeting of the year Thursday.

Nyberg was the first and only chair of the commission, which held its inaugural meeting June 1, 2022, after the City Council approved the ordinance establishing the commission.

Nyberg said her term to serve on the commission was ending, and asked not to be reappointed. She noted she is "not going anywhere" and will continue as executive director of the Madison Area Arts Alliance (MAAA) where she "can help (the Public Arts Commission) in different ways now."

Nyberg said it was awkward for her to report on MAAA events to the Public Arts Commission when she was also serving as its chair. "There wasn't anything wrong with it," she said and noted she will likely continue to show up at the meetings. "I'll probably just come and report, and I'm here if they need me."

Madison Mayor Bob Courtney told Nyberg he wanted to "publicly thank you for your leadership," explaining that she has played an integral role in helping to develop the Public Arts Commission.

Courtney said he called Nyberg and told her he "would like to put some structure and some energy behind our efforts for economic development across our community, and that's going to include and incorporate

public art in an organized way."

Courtney told Nyberg, "I want to thank you for that because you answered that call and you also answered the call to be the first person appointed to the Public Arts Commission. You started the work on this in 2021 by working through City Council to adopt the ordinance that created the Public Arts Commission."

Once created, Courtney said the commission began doing the work "to start the endeavor of putting the substance behind what our vision was, and that was to adopt some guidelines as to how we educate and bring awareness to the importance of art in our community, and then also implementing the plan behind it, and that has successfully culminated not only in the adoption of the design guidelines which have been approved by City Council, but also embarking on the inventory of public art across our community, which is part of that ordinance, and of course celebrating with first major piece of public art by this Public Arts Commission."

Courtney praised Nyberg and the four other members of the commission — Greg Goodknight, Kim Nyberg, Eric Phagan and Tracy Wyne — for what they have done for public art in Madison. "It's all happening because of you all

SEE ARTS/PAGE A3

## Commissioners call special meeting to finalize ARP allocations

BY BOB DEMAREE

The Jefferson County Commissioners have called a special meeting to finalize allocation of the county's remaining \$339,426.58 in American Rescue Plan funds just one day before the end of year deadline.

The Commissioners hoped

to make a decision at their meeting Thursday but were still waiting to know the cost of converting a portion of the former Jefferson County Jail into a juvenile correction facility with plans to use any remaining funds to support the Rykers Ridge-Telegraph Hill Regional Sewer District to

make upgrades and repairs to the utility.

The special meeting has been scheduled for 9 a.m. on Monday, Dec. 30, at the Commissioners office at the Jefferson County Courthouse.

Any ARP dollars not obligated by the Dec. 31, 2024, deadline need to be returned to

the U.S. Treasury, though the funds don't have to be spent until the end of 2026. To meet that requirement, contracts or purchase orders must be in place for all funds in which allocations are made.

The Commissioners did approve two contracts for ARP expenditures at Thursday's

meeting — one for architectural design for a potential new Jefferson County Animal Shelter and the other for a key fob entry system for Courthouse workers.

The contract for the animal shelter design went to Grinsfelder Associates of

SEE ARP/PAGE A3

# Trimble man, 19, charged with child exploitation

BY PAXTON MEDIA GROUP

A Trimble County man has been charged with "child sexual exploitation offenses" in connection with the alleged possession of child sexual abuse material.

In a case investigated by the Kentucky State Police (KSP) Electronic Crime Branch, Kahil Blanden Jahvon Nevils, 18, of Bedford, was arrested at 7:27 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 19, as the result of an



Kahil Blanden Jahvon Nevils

undercover Internet Crimes Against Children investigation. The KSP Electronic Crime Branch began investigating Nevils after allegedly discovering the suspect sharing images of child sexual exploitation online.

The investigation resulted in a search warrant being issued in the case and served at a residence in Bedford

the crime seized and taken to KSP's forensic laboratory for examination. The investigation is ongoing.

Nevils is currently charged with one count of distribution of obscene matter to minors, one count of possession of matter portraying a minor in a sexual performance and one count of procuring/promoting use of a minor by electronic means. The charges range from a Class A misdemeanor, punishable up to one year in jail, to a Class-C felony, punishable by five to 10 years

in prison. Nevils was lodged in the Carroll County Detention Center in Carrollton.

The Kentucky Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force is comprised of more than 26 local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies. The mission of the ICAC Task Force, created by the United States Department of Justice and administrated by the Kentucky State Police, is to assist state and local law enforcement agencies in developing a response to cyber enticement

and child sexual abuse material investigations. This support encompasses forensic and investigative components, training and technical assistance, victim services, prevention and community education. The ICAC program was developed in response to the increasing number of children and teenagers using the internet, the proliferation of child sexual abuse material, and the heightened online activity of predators searching for unsupervised contact with underage victims.

## NEWS OF RECORD

### JEFFERSON COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE CENTER

#### Lodgings

**December 18, 2024**

Ethan Wayne White, 28, Madison, for Unlawful Possession or Use of a Legend Drug, a Level 6 felony; Operating a Vehicle With a BAC of .15, Operating a Vehicle While Intoxicated-Endangerment, and Possession of a Schedule Drug, all Class A misdemeanors; Possession of Marijuana, a Class B misdemeanor; and Reckless Driving and Possession of Paraphernalia, both Class C misdemeanors. Bond \$1,000 cash.

**December 20, 2024**

Amanda Michelle Bentz, 42, Madison, for Possession of Methamphetamine and Maintaining a Common Nuisance, both Level 6 felonies; Operating a Vehicle While Intoxicated and Resisting Arrest, both Class A misdemeanors; Disorderly Conduct, a Class B misdemeanor; Operating a Vehicle While Intoxicated and Possession of Paraphernalia-2 Counts, all Class C misdemeanors. No bond.

**December 21, 2024**

Garrett Lee Madden, 24, Hanover, for Operating a Vehicle While Intoxicated, Theft and Possession of Marijuana, all Class A misdemeanors; Battery, Criminal Mischief, Possession of Marijuana and Public Intoxication Alcohol/Drugs, all Class B misdemeanors; Operating a Vehicle While Intoxicated and Possession of Paraphernalia, both Class C misdemeanors; and on a 15-day hold. No bond.

**December 22, 2024**

Stephen Wayne Gibson, 34, Madison, for Battery, a Level 5 felony. No bond.

### JEFFERSON COUNTY CIRCUIT & SUPERIOR COURT

#### Sentencings

**December 13, 2024**

Terry Lee Morris Jr., 35, Madison, for Possession of Marijuana, a Class B

misdemeanor and Possession of Paraphernalia, a C misdemeanor. Sentenced to 6 days jail plus \$389 in fees and court costs.

**December 16, 2024**  
Humertino Gutierrez Gomez, 36, Madison, for Operating a Vehicle Without a Valid License, a Class C misdemeanor. Sentenced to zero days jail plus \$189.50 in court costs.

Fernan Gonzalez Hernandez, 37, Hamilton, Ohio, Operating a Vehicle Without a Valid License, a Class C misdemeanor. Sentenced to 2 days jail, served, plus \$189.50 in court costs.

Jhaiderson Julian Pacheco, 34, Madison, to an amended charge of Operating a Vehicle Without a Valid License, a Class C misdemeanor. Sentenced to 2 days jail, served, plus \$189.50 in court costs.

Steven Dale Banta Jr., 38, Hanover, for Theft, a Class A misdemeanor. Sentenced to zero days jail plus \$189 court costs.

Robert Tracy Griffin, 56, Madison, for Possession of Paraphernalia, a Class C misdemeanor. Sentenced to 60 days jail, all suspended to unsupervised probation plus \$389 in fees and court costs.

**December 17, 2024**

Arnold R. Anglea, 60, Austin, to an amended charge of Unlawful Possession of a Legend Drug, a Level 6

Felony with Judgment of Conviction entered as a Class A misdemeanor. Sentenced to 48 days jail, served plus \$289 in fees and court costs.

Michele D. Tingle, 40, Madison, for Possession of Paraphernalia, a Class C misdemeanor. Sentenced to 60 days jail with credit for 2 days served and balance suspended to 180 days supervised probation plus \$789 in fees and court costs and State agrees not to file probation violation for 331 suspended sentence for prior Obstruction of Justice conviction.

Mackenzie G. Moran, 26, Madison, to an amended charge of Domestic Battery, a Level 6 felony. Sentenced to 365 days at Indiana Department of Correction, fully executed, with credit for 34 days jail served plus \$439 in fees and court costs.

Jessica Aaron Napier, 43, Madison, to amended charges of Possession of Methamphetamine and Theft, both Level 6 felonies and for being a Habitual Felony Offender. Sentenced to 365

days at Indiana Department of Correction on the drug charge enhanced by 1,095 days as a Habitual Offender with 1,095 days executed and 365 days suspended to probation concurrent to 365 days suspended sentence on the theft charge plus \$989 in fees and court costs.

Daniel Merit Barnes, 42, La Grange, Kentucky, for Invasion of Privacy, a Level 6 felony. Sentenced to 180 days at Indiana Department of Correction with credit for 120 days jail served and 60 days suspended to unsupervised probation plus \$389 in fees and court costs.

Steven Joseph Moore, Lexington, Indiana, probation violation (Possession of Methamphetamine 10-28 grams). Sentenced to 2,030 days at Indiana Department of Correction with credit for 51 days jail served.

Braden Michael Buerke, 40, Madison, to amended charges of Battery Against a Public Safety Official and Rioting-Causing Property Damage \$750-\$50,000, both Level 6 felonies. Sentenced to 2 years and 180 days at Indiana Department of Correction with credit for 73 days jail served.

Bradley Alan Carr, 45, Hanover, to an amended charge of Criminal Confinement, a Level 4 felony, with Habitual Offender Enhancement. Sentenced to a total of 16 years at Indiana Department of Correction with credit for 272 days jail, 6 years suspended to supervised probation and balance fully executed plus \$589 in fees and court costs.

Brandon Michael Buerke, 40, Madison, to amended charges of Battery Against a Public Safety Official and Rioting-Causing Property Damage \$750-\$50,000, both Level 6 felonies. Sentenced to 2 years and 180 days at Indiana Department of Correction with credit for 73 days jail served.

Juliet A. Brim and Juliet A. Maddox (now known) to Bruce A Cooper (estate) and Estate of Bruce A Cooper, 6706 North 1000 West, Comiskey.

Camilla J. Gray to Susan Leigh Gray, 1425 Chippewa Court, Madison.

Nancy Elliff and Carolyn J. Hodge (deceased) to Robert W. Drake, Pamela L. Alling and Paula Drake-Howard, approximately 42 acres at 1218 North Thompson Road, Madison.

**December 18, 2024**

1827 Property LLC to Rafferty Development LLC, 4150 West State Road 56, Hanover.

Alan J. Dirksen, Douglas D

Dirksen (trustees), Rosemary L. Dirksen Supplemental Care

Trust and Rosemary L. Dirksen

**December 19, 2024**

Laken Brooke Burres, 27, Madison, probation violation (Possession of Methamphetamine). Sentenced to serve 2 years at Indiana Department of Correction with credit for 37 days jail served.

Ronald Wayne Truman, 34, Lexington, Indiana, probation violation (Dealing in Methamphetamine) for positive test and/or admitted use of substances. Sentenced to 365 days at Indiana Department of Correction with credit for 51 days jail served.

Daniel Curtis Durocher, 35, Madison, probation violation (Aggravated Battery). Sentenced to 3,507 days at Indiana Department of Correction with credit for 414 days jail served.

Steven Joseph Moore, Lexington, Indiana, probation violation (Possession of Methamphetamine 10-28 grams). Sentenced to 2,030 days at Indiana Department of Correction with credit for 51 days jail served.

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Bradley Alan Carr, 45, Hanover, to an amended charge of Criminal Confinement, a Level 4 felony, with Habitual Offender Enhancement. Sentenced to a total of 16 years at Indiana Department of Correction with credit for 272 days jail, 6 years suspended to supervised probation and balance fully executed plus \$589 in fees and court costs.

Jeffrey A. Oberate, 44, Hanover, to an amended charge of Operating While Intoxicated, a Level 6 felony, with Habitual Vehicular Substance Offender Enhancement. Sentenced to a total of 1,460 days at Indiana Department of Correction

with credit for 10 days jail served, 720 days suspended to supervised probation, driver's license suspended 365 days retroactive to Oct. 29, 2024, restitution to Jeffrey Devary in an amount to be determined and \$789.50 in fees and court costs with sentence to run consecutive to 300 days revoked probation on prior Operating While Intoxicated conviction.

**REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS**

**Jefferson County**

**December 16, 2024**

Suzanne B. Williams to Stephen Apple and Karla Apple, 403 Fairmount Drive, Madison.

6709 W South Street Land

Trust to Brayden Thomas Philpot, 6709 West South Street, Dupont.

**December 17, 2024**

Hall's Properties Inc. to Bear Properties LLC, 1400 Clifty Drive, Madison.

Corey Foster and Sarah Foster to Ken Allen Boyer and Sherry Garrett Boyer, 2348 Woods Edge Drive, Madison.

Sidney T. Thevenow to Be Dream Homes LLC, 515 East Street, Madison.

Richard Keith Olson to Barr Properties LLC to Barr Properties LLC, 6 parcels totaling approximately 3.5 acres at 2850 Clifty Drive, Madison.

Juliet A. Brim and Juliet A. Maddox (now known) to Bruce A Cooper (estate) and Estate of Bruce A Cooper, 6706 North 1000 West, Comiskey.

Camilla J. Gray to Susan Leigh Gray, 1425 Chippewa Court, Madison.

Nancy Elliff and Carolyn J. Hodge (deceased) to Robert W. Drake, Pamela L. Alling and Paula Drake-Howard, approximately 42 acres at 1218 North Thompson Road, Madison.

**December 18, 2024**

1827 Property LLC to Rafferty Development LLC, 4150 West State Road 56, Hanover.

Alan J. Dirksen, Douglas D

Dirksen (trustees), Rosemary L. Dirksen Supplemental Care

Trust and Rosemary L. Dirksen

(trust) to Alan J. Dirksen and Douglas D. Dirksen, 6 parcels totaling approximately 123.5 acres at 1630+ Simmons Road, Madison and 5620 North Graham Road, Madison.

Gary A. Clark, Sandra J. Clark (deceased) and Clark Family Trust to Gary R. Clark and Clark Family Trust, 4613 West 1100 North, Dupont.

Gary R. Clark (trustee) and Clark Family Trust to Gary R. Clark and Gary R. Clark Jr., 4613 West 1100 North, Dupont.

**December 19, 2024**

Renavae W. Adams to Renavae W. Adams, to revoke previous transfer on death deed, 532 Miles Ridge Road, Madison.

Chi Chapter House Corporation Inc. to Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana Inc., 119 Madison Avenue, Hanover.

Juanita L. Royalty (deceased) and Donald F. Royalty Jr., Stephen P. Royalty and Linda D. Brouette (heirs) to Dan M. Royalty and Mary H. Royalty, 3821+ West State Road 56, Hanover.

John M. Hall to Hunter C. Chapin, 8351 West Chicken Run Road, Madison.

Earl E. Bennett and Earl Edward Bennett to Earl E. Bennett and Mary Ann Bennett, 4 parcels totaling approximately 32 acres at 4004+ West State Road 56, Hanover; 6307 West State Road 256, Madison; 8000+ West State Road 256, Lexington; and 100+ South Grange Hall Road, Hanover.

Scott H. Murphy and Tracy A. Murphy (trustees) and Scott H. and Tracy A. Murphy Living Trust to Harvest Properties LLC, 215 and 217 East Second Street, Madison.

Angelia Rogers, Verliss Baugh and Angelia Rogers (power of attorney) to Bardi Builders LLC, 1842 Clifty Drive, Madison and 2411 Green Hills Drive, Madison.

**December 20, 2024**

Nancy C. Reese and Nancy C. Sobcek to Larry Reese and Nancy C. Reese, 5,595 acres at 6376 North State Road 7, Madison.

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### FOOD DISTRIBUTIONS

#### Salvation Army Food Bank

331 East Main St. Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays noon-1 p.m.

A food giveaway at the red door on east side of building. Bring your own bags.

For more information, call 812-265-2157.

### House of Hope Food Pantry

100 East 2nd St., Madison

Tuesdays 5-7 p.m.; Fridays 9-11 a.m.

A food giveaway and distribution at the Jefferson County House of Hope Food Pantry in downtown Madison. Please arrive at the pantry 15

minutes prior to closing to be served.

### CLOTHING DISTRIBUTIONS

#### Jesus Clothes Closet

Trinity United Methodist Church

412 W. Main St., Madison

Mondays 9-11 a.m.

Jesus Clothes Closet distributes free clothing to those in need. For more information, call 812-866-4843.

### SENIOR EVENTS

#### Hanover Senior Citizens Center

Exercising: The Hanover Senior Citizens Program is

offering free exercising at the

Hanover Park Community

Center on Mondays and

Thursdays at 10 a.m.

# 'Busy year' of road work ahead for Madison Main Street, Clifty Drive

BY BOB DEMAREE

Major road work both downtown and on the hilltop will create what Mayor Bob Courtney characterized as a "very busy year" for the city in 2025.

At last week's Board of Public Works and Safety meeting, Courtney said Main Street work will include improvement at the Mulberry Street and West Street intersections, east end traffic calming and the resurfacing from Broadway Street to Mill Street. In 2026, he said work will begin on Hanover Hill, and then back down onto Main Street in Madison. "In the next three years, we're going to have a lot of much needed road work."

The city will be applying for a \$1.5 million Community Crossing Matching Grant (CCMG) in January toward what is anticipated to be an overall \$21 million project from Broadway Street to the top

of Hanover Hill. Next year's work will also happen east of Broadway Street due to two Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) safety grants the city received.

The city received \$119,289.96 for the city's east end traffic calming plan that includes a lane reduction and new thermo striping. Courtney said that work will create a pattern of staging cars more safely into a single lane as they approach the bridge. "Right now there's a lot of acceleration that has to happen in order for the staging to occur" as cars maneuver to get in the lane, an issue that he said will be resolved by forcing that staging to take place earlier.

The city received a \$598,950 grant for crosswalk modernization for the intersections at West Street and Mulberry Street, both very busy intersections. In particular, Deputy Mayor Mindy McGee said the West Street intersection is "one

of our highest traffic by pedestrians and number of cars coming through that intersection on a daily basis. It's a dangerous intersection."

Both the West Street and Mulberry Street intersections at Main Street will receive new modern traffic signals and crosswalk signals that are audible for the visually impaired. The crosswalks will also be repainted with ADA ramps placed on each corner. "All of that will assist us on the longer term Main Street plan by getting some of that out of the way now, but honestly we just didn't feel like we could wait to upgrade those signals and crosswalks," said McGee.

On the hilltop, Indiana Department of Transportation will be completing its work on stormwater and sidewalks that began this year. Work has stopped now for the winter but McGee said workers will be back in the spring to mill

the asphalt, repave and completely resurface the area on Clifty Drive between Wilson Avenue and Michigan Road.

The BPWS gave approval on two change orders on the recently completed CCMG-funded improvements for various Madison streets done this year in a \$1,696,704.70 contract with Dave O'Mara Contractor Inc. The two change orders included a \$271,918 reduction and a \$299,458 increase, creating a net increase of \$27,540.

McGee said the \$271,918 reduction was due to removing work on Cragmont Street that had been planned between Mouser Street and Clifty Drive. "The entire project was a big job," said McGee, noting it would have included road resurfacing and replacing sidewalks while also addressing drainage issues and driveway approaches. "We started looking at Cragmont, and realized there's

a lot. More work is there than we had in the application. We felt like it was better to pull it, and apply with everything we needed in that segment so that we can fix some of the other things that are going on with that road ... and do it correctly, and put it in another CCMG project."

By not doing Cragmont Street, it provided funds for unanticipated costs on other streets, which is the reason for the \$299,458 change order increase in which there was a need for storm pipes and stormwater catch basins. On Blackmore Street, there was a sewer lid on a manhole that damaged the blacktop and concrete was needed to provide more stability. In downtown Madison at Mulberry and Second streets, there was a need for contaminated fuel removal where there was once a bus station (now a barber shop and winery) along with old coal chutes underneath sidewalks that needed more stability.

## BPWS approves contracts for MPD body cameras, tasers

BY BOB DEMAREE

Madison's Board of Public Works and Safety committed more than \$430,000 to Madison Police Department (MPD) last week to upgrade the department's body cams and tasers for the next five years.

The two five-year contracts — \$265,023.80 for the body cameras and \$166,989.60 for the tasers — were through Scottsdale, Arizona-based Axon Enterprise, which develops technology and weapons products for military, law enforcement and civilians.

"They are leading the field in police technology," said Madison Police Chief Shawn Scudder. "They are kind of the gold standard" with many law enforcement agencies moving towards contracting with Axon. In fact, the Jeffer-

son County Sheriff's Department switched to the company's equipment more than a year ago.

Scudder said the contract will provide 42 body cameras including new ones immediately and replacements after 2.5 years and 5 years. He described MPD's current body cameras as "sub par," noting they have a fail rate ranging from 30% to 40%, and there have been times "you try to turn them on and they won't work ... that happens on a pretty regular basis."

He said there have also been challenges to storing digital evidence housed on a server at the police department when the server has failed, causing body camera footage to be lost. "We want to get away from an on-site server and go to a cloud-based server" for more reliability, which will be provided by Axon.

Axon will provide access to evidence.com which will provide MPD the ability to share digital evidence with other agencies. "Most surrounding agencies have gone to evidence.com," Scudder said, noting, for example, if Scott County law enforcement is involved in a related case, "we don't have to download it and mail it to them or take it over, or they don't have to come and get it."

Scudder said evidence.com provides the ability to establish retention links for specific periods of time, or a lifetime retention link so that it will never go away.

Mayor Bob Courtney, who also serves on the BPWS, supported the purchase. "During our budget workshop this year we focused a lot on what the investment needs were for MPD, and specific line

item through our budget for this" with funding dedicated for the next five years.

Payments will be made to Axon for the next five years including \$53,004.76 annually for the body cams through 2029 and \$26,597.92 for the tasers in 2025 with \$35,097.92 paid annually each of the following four years.

"This is another investment in proper equipment," said Courtney.

In other business, the board:

- Approved paying 75% of the final PACE award to Julie Brown for 623 Broadway Street, which had received a \$25,000 dilapidated structure grant for which a \$12,500 midpoint award had been previously paid.

"This is a great outcome," said Courtney, noting what was once an unsafe structure has now been stabilized as safe and with the exterior facade restored.

- Approved PACE extensions to 723 West Third Street and 725 West Third Street, owned by Pettit Properties, to May 31, and 1805 Orchard Street, owned by Tanner Hammock, to March 13.

## ARTS

FROM PAGE A1

being willing to volunteer your precious time and resources and talents, and committed to the city. I want to thank all of you for your service."

A decision is pending on Nyberg's replacement on the commission, along with selecting a new chair.

In other business, the Commission:

- Approved four payments on the River's Edge sculpture at the city gateway from the Milton-Madison Bridge including the last payment of \$25,000 to Beverly Stucker Precious, the artist who designed the art installment.

She was paid in four installments for the sculpture which her contract was for \$175,000. There

were three payments each of \$50,000 then the final \$25,000 payment.

Other claims approved on the sculpture were \$13,595 to River City Nursery for landscaping at the gateway, \$500 to West Bend Insurance for Indiana Department of Transportation bond insurance for the sculpture work and \$331.70 to Madison Iron and

Wood for the "Indiana" sign underneath the sculpture.

- Don Clapham, public arts team chair for the Madison Area Arts Alliance, provided an update on its work in 2024 that included supporting the fundraising efforts for the River's Edge sculpture. He said MAAA is planning a summer event to celebrate the sculpture, especially since weather

conditions were snowy and cold the evening of the ribbon cutting Nov. 21.

He also said work is underway for new art at 14 of the ARTsy designs for electrical switch boxes in Madison both hilltop and downtown and in Hanover. In the art alley, located between Bello's Pizza and Off Broadway Taproom, he said they want to develop permanent display fixtures to be used to display art.

Clapham said 10 entries were submitted for the murals that will go on the DG Market with plans to meet soon with developer Curt Rafferty for final selection of the art.

Goodnight thanked MAAA for its work. "It's such an incredible resource to the town, doing a lot of great projects."

## ARP

FROM PAGE A1

Fort Wayne for \$57,210.

"There will be a schematic design phase, and a design development phase that will go from a concept phase to a very detailed phase which will also give us cost estimates for the new shelter house," said Commissioner David Bramer. "They know we're not going to move forward until we get money for it."

The Commissioners hope that having a design for the shelter will help generate funding opportunities for construction of a new facility.

Commissioner Bobby Little said he was impressed with the Grinsfelder representatives, noting the company had previously done various types of design work for animal shelters that

includes additions, redesigns and more. "I was impressed with questions they asked. There were things I never would have thought of."

Jefferson County Animal Shelter Director Tricia Parker said she has been to the animal shelter at Kokomo that was designed by Grinsfelder. "It is well designed. It's amazing looking. I know the quality of their work," she said.

The contract for the key fob system was for \$46,960.91 to Electrictek in which \$20,000 is being funded by ARP dollars. The key fob system will be for exterior and interior doors at the Courthouse with the initial focus in the interior being on the first floor.

In other business, the Commissioners:

- Honored County Recorder Molly O'Connor for 32 years of service in county govern-

ment including the last eight as County Recorder. O'Connor will be retiring when her term as County Recorder ends Dec. 31.

- Approved appointments for next year — Brian Amick and Mike Pittman for one year on the Southeastern Indiana Regional Plan Commission, John Schafer for one year on the alcohol beverage board, Nancy Sobeck and Becky Law for one year to the property tax assessment board of appeals, and Dr. Philip Hall and Adam Faulkner to four year terms on the board of health.

One year appointments were also made to the county employee insurance committee with Jason Copeland, representing the highway department; Lindsey Wyne, representing the health department; Troy Hawkins, representing

the Sheriff's department; Kathy Sizemore, representing the Courthouse; Kim Judge-Bennett, representing the town of Hanover; and Heather White, the county's human resource director.

Commissioner appointments for the year are Little to the county employee insurance committee and the pauper attorney board; Bramer to the tourism board; and Ron Lee to the Southeastern Indiana Recycling District.

- Approved a resolution for a Commissioners sale for four Jefferson County properties that County Auditor Heather Huff said are "severely delinquent in the payments of property taxes." Two of the properties are in Madison, one in Deputy and one on Legion Road near Jefferson Lake. The Commissioners sale will be March 13 with a starting bid of \$200.

to their owners and 67 went to rescue for a total of 444 animals. There are currently 30 animals at the shelter.

- The Commissioners discussed moving a truck at 8225 West Kent State Road 256 that impedes the vision of people using that highway. The property is one affected by a fire Nov. 27, 2022 that they have been working with owner Arlie Colvin to clean up. "He was making progress, and we were working with him, but he's not getting back to us now," said Bramer, noting Colvin has not moved the truck despite requests to do so. The Commissioners asked County Highway Superintendent Jason Copeland to work with the Sheriff's Department in coordinating safely pushing the truck enough so that it doesn't block vision on the highway.

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BEFORE AFTER

## BEETLE BAILEY



## BLONDIE

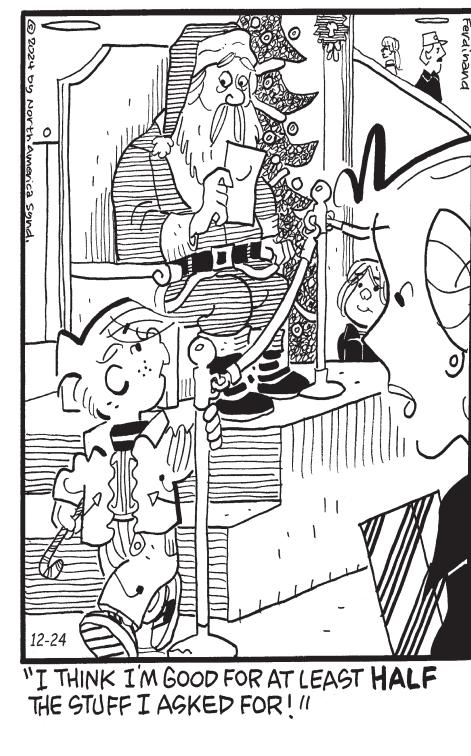


## FAMILY CIRCUS

## THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

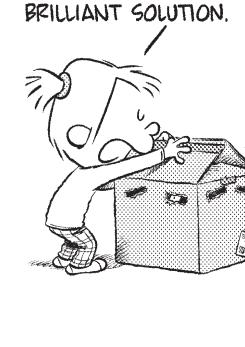
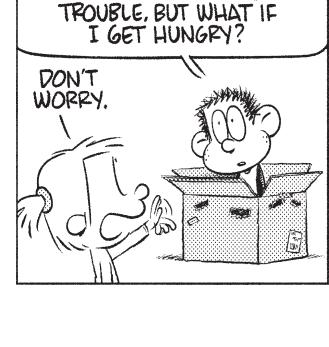
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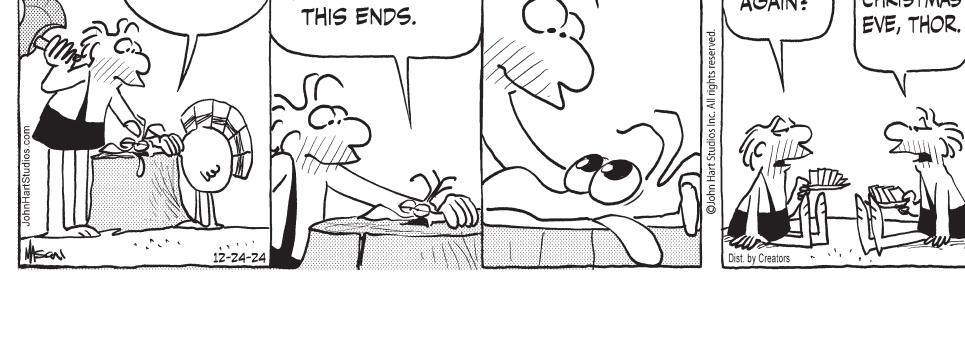
## HI &amp; LOIS



## BABY BLUES



## BC



## CURTIS



## WIZARD OF ID



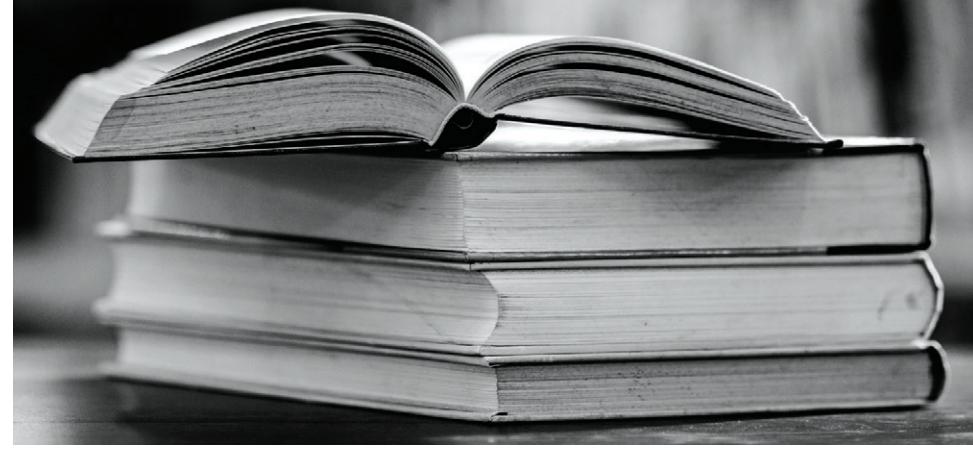
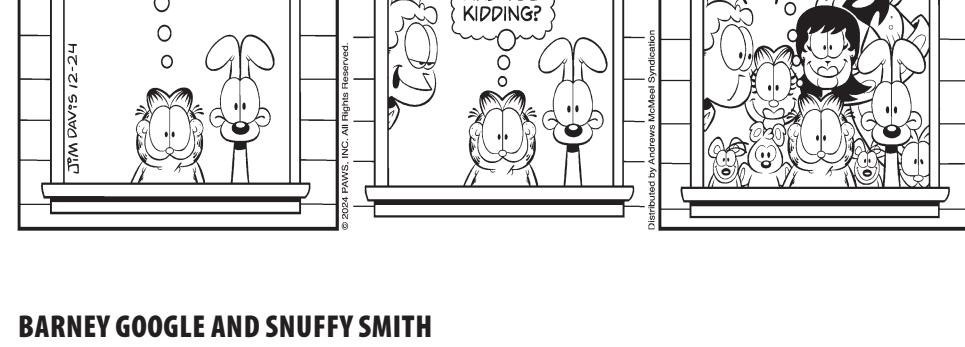
## ZITS



## CRABGRASS



## GARFIELD



## BARNEY GOOGLE AND SNUFFY SMITH



## TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Tuesday, Dec. 24, the 359th day of 2024. There are seven days left in the year. This is Christmas Eve.

## Today in history:

On Dec. 24, 1914, during World War I, impromptu Christmas truces began to take hold along parts of the Western Front between British and German soldiers.

## Also on this date:

In 1814, the United States and Britain signed the Treaty of Ghent, which ended the War of 1812 following ratification by both the British Parliament and the U.S. Senate.

In 1851, fire devastated the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., destroying about 35,000 volumes (about

two-thirds of the library's collection).

In 1865, several veterans of the Confederate Army formed a private social club in Pulaski, Tennessee, that was the original version of the Ku Klux Klan.

In 1913, 73 people, most of them children, died in a crush of panic after a false cry of "Fire!" during a Christmas party for striking miners and their families at the Italian Hall in Calumet, Michigan.

In 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt appointed Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower supreme commander of Allied forces in Europe.

In 1992, President George H.W. Bush pardoned

former Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger and five others in the Iran-Contra scandal.

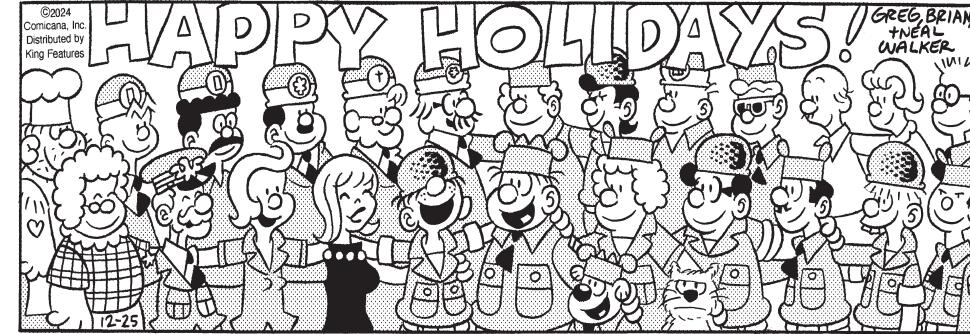
In 2013, Britain's Queen Elizabeth II granted a posthumous pardon to code-breaker Alan Turing, who was criminally convicted of homosexual behavior in the 1950s.

**Today's Birthdays:**  
Immunologist Dr. Anthony Fauci is 84. Filmmaker Lee Daniels is 65. Basketball Hall of Fame coach Jay Wright is 63. Singer Ricky Martin is 53. Author Stephenie Meyer is 51. TV host Ryan Seacrest is 50. Rock singer Louis Tomlinson (One Direction) is 33. NFL wide receiver Davante Adams is 32.

## PICKLES



## BEETLE BAILEY



## BLONDIE



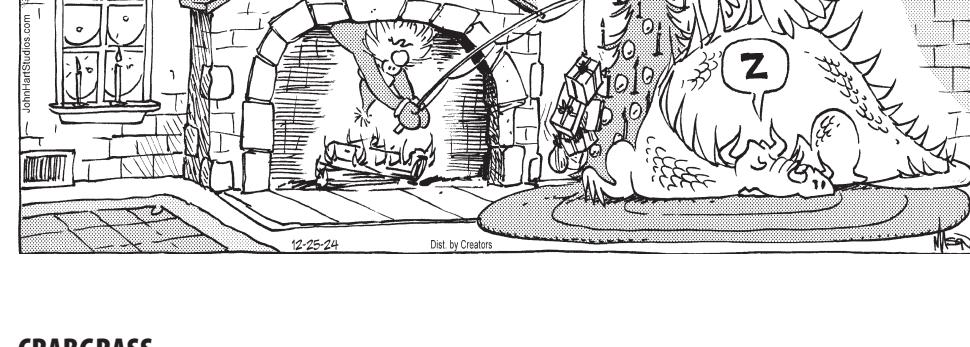
## HI &amp; LOIS



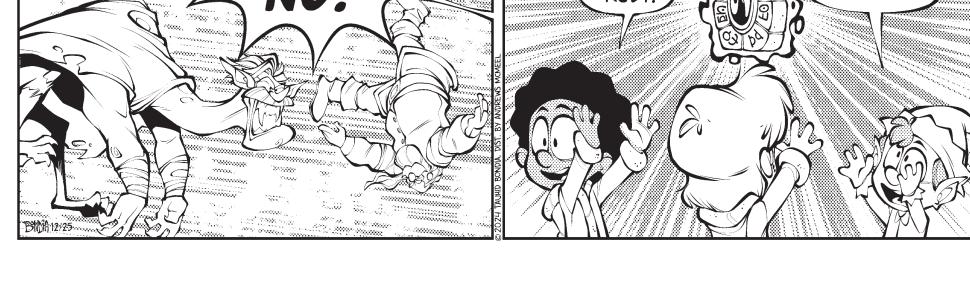
## BC



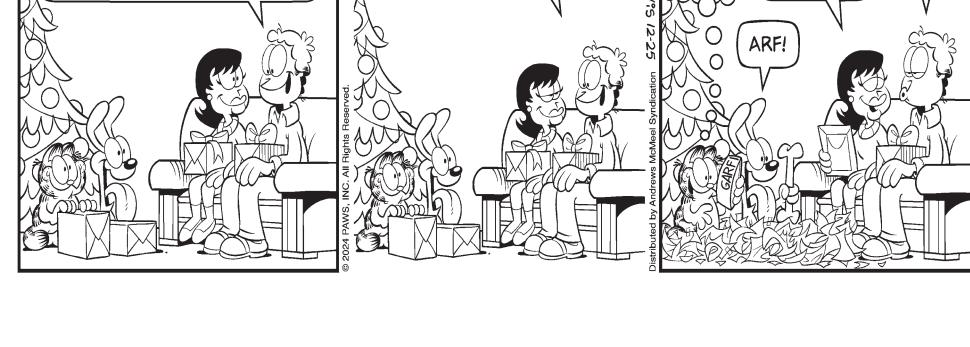
## WIZARD OF ID



## CRABGRASS



## GARFIELD



## BARNEY GOOGLE AND SNUFFY SMITH



## PICKLES



## FAMILY CIRCUS

## THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

## DENNIS THE MENACE



"Aw, Mommy! We're not ready for breakfast yet!"



"LOOK! SANTA BROUGHT ME A COMFY CHAIR FOR SITTING IN THE CORNER!"

## BABY BLUES



## CURTIS



## ZITS



## TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Wednesday, Dec. 25, the 360th day of 2024. There are six days left in the year. This is Christmas Day.

## Today in history:

On Dec. 25, 1776, Gen. George Washington and his troops crossed the Delaware River for a surprise attack against Hessian forces at Trenton, New Jersey, during the American Revolutionary War.

## Also on this date:

In 1066, William the Conqueror was crowned King of England. In 1818, "Silent Night (Stille Nacht)" was publicly performed for the first time during the Christmas Midnight Mass at the Church of St. Nikolaus in Oberndorf, Austria.

In 1868, President

Andrew Johnson granted unconditional pardons to "every person who directly or indirectly" supported the Confederacy in the Civil War.

In 1926, Hirohito became emperor of Japan, succeeding his father, Emperor Yoshihito.

In 1989, ousted Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu and his wife, Elena, were executed following a populist uprising.

In 2009, passengers aboard Northwest Airlines Flight 253 foiled an attempt to blow up the plane as it was landing in Detroit by seizing Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, who tried to set off explosives in his underwear. (Abdulmutallab later pleaded guilty and was sentenced to life in prison.)

In 2021, NASA's James Webb Space Telescope, the world's largest and most powerful space telescope, rocketed away from French Guiana in South America on a quest to see light from the first stars and galaxies and search the universe for signs of life.

**Today's Birthdays:**  
Football Hall of Famer Larry Csonka is 78. Country singer Barbara Mandrell is 76. Actor Sissy Spacek is 75. Former White House adviser Karl Rove is 74. Actor CCH Pounder is 72. Singer Annie Lennox is 70. Country singer Steve Wariner is 70. Baseball Hall of Famer Rickey Henderson is 66. Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is 53. Actor Jeremy Strong is 46.



## OBITUARIES

## Christopher Dale Lester

Christopher Dale Lester, age 43, of Seymour, IN formerly of Madison, and Vevay, entered this life on Aug. 4, 1981, in Madison, IN. Dale was the loving son of Roger D. and Debra Wood Lester. He was raised in Switzerland County, IN, and graduated in 2000, from Switzerland County High School. He moved to Madison, in 2000, and worked for Madison Precision as a team leader for several years. He was united in marriage on July 17, 2012, in Gatlinburg, TN, to Amber Lee Lush. Dale had worked at Aisin Corporation in Seymour, as a machine operator and team leader until becoming disabled from an accident. He resided the past 12 years in Seymour, and enjoyed helping others. He loved his dogs, Lola and Diesel and wheeling and dealing. He loved to paint cars, tinker on cars, tractor pulls, racing, and gaming. He also had a fascination of pirate ships. Dale suffered several strokes and passed away on Wednesday, Dec. 18, 2024, at 5:37 a.m., at the Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis, IN, with his



family at his side.

Dale will be missed by his loving wife of 12 years, Amber Lee Lush Lester of Seymour, IN; his parents, Roger D. and Debra Wood Lester of Madison, IN; his sister, Chrissy Lester of Madison, IN; his uncles and his aunts, Charles and Janet Lester, Carroll Beaver Sebree, Denver and Ann Lester, Linda and Bill Carpenter, Dorothy and Herb Dawson; Paul Jr. and Carolyn Wood, Robert Wayne Wood; his father in law, Travis Lush of North Vernon, IN; his adopted mother in law, Bessie Lush of Seymour, IN; his brothers in law and sisters in law, Terry Lush, Timmy and Amanda Lush, Jessica Lush, Trenton

Lush, Trina and Felipe Marin, and Bailey Lush; several nieces, nephews, and other relatives.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Edwin and Marietta Lester and Paul and Betty Wood, his aunt, Barb Hoevenier, his mother in law, Peggy DeWeese, his adopted father in law, Curtis Lush.

Funeral services will be conducted Tuesday, Dec. 24, 2024, at 1 p.m., at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre, 325 Demaree Drive in Madison, IN. Interment will be at a later date in the Vevay Cemetery in Vevay, IN.

Friends may call Tuesday from 11 a.m. — 1 p.m., at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre, 325 Demaree Drive in Madison, IN.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Christopher Dale Lester Remembrance Fund. Cards are available at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centres of Madison, and Hanover. Online condolences, remembrances, and memorials, can be left at [www.morgan-nay.com](http://www.morgan-nay.com).

## John Wilson (Jack) Ramey

John Wilson (Jack) Ramey, (age 78) of Madison, IN, entered this life Feb. 19, 1946, in Phillipsburg, Pennsylvania and passed away peacefully on Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2024.

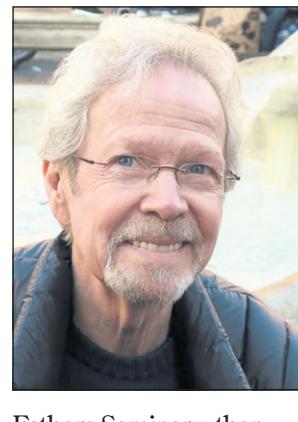
He was preceded in death by his father, John Ramey, and his mother, Catherine Lanahan Ramey. Jack will be greatly missed by his loving wife of 47 years, Nancy Rodgers of Madison, IN; his loving step-children, Jeffrey

Dykes of Augusta, Maine and Sharla Urchek (late husband Steven Urchek) of Andover, OH; his adoring step-grandchildren, Sarah Urchek of Louisville, KY, Steven Urchek of Andover, OH, Josh Nirza Dykes of Augusta, Maine, and Ricardo Nirza Dykes of Augusta, Maine; his daughter by a previous marriage, Nell Ramey of Ravenna, OH; and his sisters, Renee Harrel, Fishers IN, and Lisa Sidebotham of Cuyahoga Falls, OH.

Jack was a poet, author, performer, and former chair of the English Department at Indiana University SE, where he taught creative writing and literature. He also taught at Hanover College and Coastal Carolina University in Conway, SC.

He grew up in Cuyahoga Falls, OH. He graduated from St. Vincent-St. Mary High School in Akron, OH, Kent State University with a major in English and anthropology, and the University of Louisville with a Ph.D in English.

In his early years, Jack studied to be a priest at the Passionist



Fathers Seminary, then became a member of the counterculture and read his poetry in Santa Cruz, San Francisco, Eugene OR, Victoria BC, and Kent OH. He then moved to Manhattan to work in the theater. His one-person show "Dark Is a Long Way: An Evening with Dylan Thomas" ran for two years at the 13th Street Theater in NYC, at the Odyssey Theater in Los Angeles, and toured the country. His acting roles in NYC include the leading role in "The Empire Laughs Back" and Bunthorne in Gilbert and Sullivan's "Patience". He taught in Stockholm, Sweden for several years. On his return to America, he performed in medieval plays with the Chicago Medieval Players and often read his poetry at The Green Mill in Chicago.

He performed Whitman's "Song of Myself" at the New York Public Library and the Walt Whitman Birthplace Museum on Long Island.

He had the lead role in the film "The Age

of Insects," which was screened and archived at the Museum of

Modern Art as part of

their exhibit "Club 57:

Film, Performance,

and Art in the East Village, 1978-1983". His documentary, "William Blake: Inspiration and Vision," won an Aegis award for best educational film. His program "Environmental Art on the Ohio River" with nature photographer Bernie Kasper focused on the beauty of nature and the great threats it is facing. Jack frequently posted poems and audios at springwoodpress.org. His YouTube videos include his reading at the Keats-Shelley House in Rome, "Keats and Shelley in Rome," his documentary "Ecstasy & Death: Keats and Shelley in Rome," which was screened at the Utopia Film Festival, "Ode to the West Wind," "Ode on a Grecian Urn," "Ozymandias," and "Ode to a Nightingale." His poetry books include "Eavesdropping in Plato's Café," "The Future Past," and "Death Sings in the Choir of Light." His historical fiction, "Turtle Island: A Dream of Peace," tells the story of the founding of the Iroquois League of Nations.

He loved to watch sports on TV and was an avid reader his entire life. In his later life, he enjoyed taking art classes and painting.

A "Celebration of Life" will be held for Jack on Sunday, Dec. 29, from 2 to 4 p.m. in Madison at the Picker House behind the Fairfield Inn Historic Eagle Creek Mill.

Memorial contributions can be made to the Environmental Defense Fund. Online memories and condolences can be left at [www.morgan-nay.com](http://www.morgan-nay.com).

## Diane S. Szczepaniuk Wolfschlag

Diane S. Szczepaniuk Wolfschlag, age 82, of Madison, IN, entered this life on March 24, 1942, in Grand Rapids, MI. She was the loving daughter of the late Joseph and Gertrude Sawosko Szczepaniuk. Diane died on Wednesday, Dec. 18, 2024, at 9:35 p.m. at the River Terrace Health Campus in Madison, IN.

Diane will be missed by her daughters, Johanna Wolfschlag of Madison, IN, Andrea Michl and her husband Christopher of Gold Hill, Oregon, and Anna Marie Wilson and her husband Troy of Gaston, OR; her grandchildren, Kerri, Kate, Everett and Lowell; her great-grandchildren, Kyson, Riley, Harmony, Alaric, Amelia and Kirra; her sister in law, Bonnie Szczepaniuk of AZ; her brother in law, David Wolfschlag and his companion, Theresa Brooks of Madison, IN;

sister in law, Linda Smart of Indianapolis, IN, and several nieces, nephews, and other relatives.

She was preceded in death by her father, Joseph Szczepaniuk, her mother, Gertrude Sawosko Szczepaniuk, her brothers, Joseph Szczepaniuk, Thomas Szczepaniuk, and her beloved husband of 56 years Thomas Joseph Wolfschlag.

A funeral mass will be conducted Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2025 at 11 a.m., by Father Christopher Craig at the Prince of Peace Catholic Church, 413 East Second Street in downtown Madison, IN. Interment will follow in the Indiana Veterans Memorial Cemetery, 1415 North Gate Road in Madison, IN. Following services, friends, and family, will gather at Nor Rose Lodge (Knights of Columbus), 2250 Lanier Drive in Madison, IN.

Friends may visit Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2025, from 9:30 —

10:30 a.m., at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre.

Southeastern Indiana Nurse Honor Guard will conduct a service on Tuesday Feb. 4, 2025, 10:15 a.m., at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre, 325 Demaree Drive in Madison, IN.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude, Little Sisters of the Poor, Friends of Shawe and Pope John, or the Wounded Warrior Project. Cards are available at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centres of Madison, and Hanover. Online condolences, remembrances, and memorials, can be left at [www.morgan-nay.com](http://www.morgan-nay.com).

The Wolfschlag family wishes to acknowledge with great appreciation and thankfulness to Jewel Place, Norton King's Daughters' Hospital, and River Terrace Health Campus, for all the love, respect, and care.

## Betty Ruth Hannah Rector

Betty Ruth Hannah Rector, age 90, of Madison, IN, formerly of Dupont, entered this life on Feb. 27, 1934, in Maryville, TN. She was the loving daughter of the late Ben and Mae C. Baumgardner Hannah. She graduated from Berea College in 1957, with a bachelor's degree in Home Economics.

She was the loving mother of two sons, Douglas and Stuart and two daughters, Regina and Lynda. She moved to Madison, IN, in 1975, and married William Rector on Dec. 7, 1983, in Madison.

She worked as Youth Director for Ohio Valley Opportunities for 13 years and had previously worked as a home economics teacher. Betty also liked to substitute teach when asked to and was of the Methodist faith. She enjoyed quilting and loved spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Betty died on Sunday, Dec. 15, 2024, at 1:38 a.m. at the Swiss Villa Nursing & Rehab Center in Vevay, IN.



Betty will be missed by her loving sons, Douglas Morrison (widower of Diana) of Madison, IN, Stuart Morrison and his wife, Libby of Lexington, IN; her loving daughters, Regina Morrison Newman and her

husband Robert of Memphis, TN, Lynda Morrison White (widow of Steve) of Dupont, IN; her brother, Ben Hannah and his wife Brenda of Madison, IN; her sister, Joyce Fields (widow of Aubrey) of Maryville, TN; her grandchildren, Daniel, Jack (Danielle), Sam, Patric (Jessica), and Zachary (Alyssa); her great grandchildren, Collyns Marie, Asher Alan, Taytum Marshall, and Kasey; her step-sons, Michael

Rector and his wife Annika of Charlestown, IN, Dana Rector and his wife Holly of Atlanta, GA; four step grandchildren; several nieces, nephews, and other relatives. She was preceded in death by her father, Ben Hannah, her mother, Mae C. Baumgardner Hannah, and her husband, William Rector, died Aug. 31, 1997.

Memorial services will be conducted on Saturday, Dec. 28, 2024, at 12 p.m., at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre, 325 Demaree Drive in Madison, IN. Interment will follow in the Dupont Cemetery in Dupont, IN..

Friends may visit Saturday, Dec. 28, 2024, from 10 a.m. until the time of service at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association. Cards are available at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centres of Madison, and Hanover. Online condolences, remembrances, and memorials, can be left at [www.morgan-nay.com](http://www.morgan-nay.com).

## DEATH NOTICES

**Mary Amos, 73,** Madison, IN, died Saturday, Dec. 21, 2024, at Norton Women's and Children's Hospital in Louisville. Arrangements will be announced by Lytle Welty Funeral Home & Cremation Service, Madison, [www.lytlewelty.com](http://www.lytlewelty.com).

**John Harold Cleveland, ISP RET,** of Madison, IN, died Wednesday, Dec. 21, 2022, at his residence. Funeral arrangements will be announced by Morgan & Nay Funeral Centres of Madison, IN, [www.morgan-nay.com](http://www.morgan-nay.com).

**Julia Carol King,**

**40,** of Carrollton, KY, died Thursday, Dec. 19, 2024. Funeral services will be at 3 p.m. pn Thursday, Dec. 26, at Tandy-Eckler-Riley Funeral Home in Carrollton, with burial in the English Cemetery near Carrollton, [www.tandyekler-rileyfuneralhome.com](http://www.tandyekler-rileyfuneralhome.com).

**Caroline Marie McRoberts, 11,** of Dupont, IN, died Sunday, Dec. 22, 2024, at her home. Funeral arrangements will be announced by Morgan & Nay Funeral Centres of Madison, IN, [www.morgan-nay.com](http://www.morgan-nay.com).

**David Bradley Smith,**

**50,** of Scottsburg, IN, and formerly of Hanover, IN, died Tuesday, Dec. 17, 2024, at Norton Hospital in Louisville. Cremation was chosen with no public services. Arrangements by Morgan & Nay Funeral Centres of Madison, and Hanover, [www.morgan-nay.com](http://www.morgan-nay.com).

**Rick L. Vance, 64,** of Dupont, IN, died Friday, Dec. 20, 2024, at Norton King's Daughters' Health in Madison, IN. Funeral arrangements will be announced by Morgan & Nay Funeral Centres of Madison, IN, [www.morgan-nay.com](http://www.morgan-nay.com).

**Julia Carol King,**

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## Santa Parade



Local fire-fighter Ryan Rogers rides along as Santa Claus waves at onlookers during Madison Fire Department's Santa Parade Saturday night. Fire trucks traveled throughout the streets of the city beginning on Vaughn Drive in front of Bicentennial Park and ending at the Troy Morgan Safety Center on Green Road.

Bob Demaree

## Madison Big Lots store appears headed towards closure

BY BOB DEMAREE

Columbus, Ohio-based retailer Big Lots announced Thursday it is conducting going-out-of-business sales at all of its remaining 963 locations after a sale of the company didn't materialize, indicating the Big Lots store at 1345 Clifty Drive in Madison could soon be closing.

Big Lots stores sell closeout and overstock merchandise from other stores, along with furniture, home decor and other items. The company filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in early September, and closed approximately 400 stores. At the end of 2023, Big Lots operated nearly 1,400 stores in 48 states.

The company announced in September it anticipated selling its remaining assets and business operations to

private equity firm Nexus Capital Management. The sale received court approval in late October with an expected closure date of early December, but according to the press release, the company does not anticipate completing its previously announced asset purchase agreement with Nexus Capital Management, though it continues to work toward completing an alternative going concern transaction with Nexus or another party with a goal to complete a sale by early January.

In the press release, it stated that "in parallel with these efforts, the company is preparing to commence going-out-of-business ("GOB") sales at all remaining Big Lots store locations in the coming days to protect the value of its estate. The

company believes that the GOB sales will not preclude it from effectuating a going concern transaction."

Big Lots President and Chief Executive Officer Bruce Thorn said, "We all have worked extremely hard and have taken every step to complete a going concern sale. While we remain hopeful that we can close an alternative going concern transaction, in order to protect the value of the Big Lots estate, we have made the difficult decision to begin the GOB process."

Big Lots has had a store at its location in Madison for 37 years, opening as part of a purchase of 17 Danner's 3D stores from Danner's Inc. in December 1986. Through that transaction, Big Lots assumed the leases of all 17 of the 3D stores, liquidated

the inventory and closed before reopening as Big Lots.

The retail space in Madison was initially the 50,000 square-foot Pages Department Store that opened Nov. 15, 1969, a short-lived small chain that developed in the late 1960s and filed bankruptcy in the early 1970s. Danner's 3D Discount

Department Store opened there April 5, 1973. Danner's Inc., based in Indianapolis, had 35 stores in Indiana, Illinois and Michigan, decreasing to 18 after selling 17 to Big Lots. All Danner stores were closed by 1989.

Big Lot dates back to 1967 when Sol Shenk formed Consolidated International Inc., making extreme

closeout deals particularly on auto parts and vehicles, according to the Big Lots website. In 1982, the company launched the Odd Lots/Big Lots closeout chain, and had an array of other store names until 2001 when they were converted to a single name brand — Big Lots — which it also changed to its corporate name.

## Preserve YOUR place in your community's history

## Trump calling to buy Greenland after eyeing Canada, Panama Canal

BY WILL WEISSERT

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla.— First it was Canada, then the Panama Canal. Now, Donald Trump again wants Greenland.

The president-elect is renewing unsuccessful calls he made during his first term for the U.S. to buy Greenland from Denmark, adding to the list of allied countries with which he's picking fights even before taking office on Jan. 20.

"Greenland is ours. We are not for sale and will never be for sale," he said in a statement. "We must not lose our years-long fight for freedom."

Trump canceled a 2019 visit to Denmark after his offer to buy Greenland was rejected by Copenhagen, and ultimately came to nothing.

He also suggested Sunday that the U.S. is getting "ripped off" at the Panama Canal.

"If the principles, both moral and legal, of this magnanimous gesture of giving are not followed, then we will demand that the Panama Canal be returned to the United States of America, in full, quickly and without question," he said.

Panama President José Raúl Mulino responded in a video that "every square meter of the canal belongs to Panama and will con-

tinue to," but Trump fired back on his social media site, "We'll see about that!"

The president-elect also posted a picture of a U.S. flag planted in the canal zone under the phrase, "Welcome to the United States Canal!"

The United States built the canal in the early 1900s but relinquished control to Panama on Dec. 31, 1999, under a treaty signed in 1977 by President Jimmy Carter.

The canal depends on reservoirs that were hit by 2023 droughts that forced it to substantially reduce the number of daily slots for crossing ships. With fewer ships, administrators also increased the fees that shippers are charged to reserve slots to use the canal.

The Greenland and Panama flareups followed Trump recently posting that "Canadians want Canada to become the 51st State" and offering an image of himself superimposed on a mountaintop surveying surrounding territory next to a Canadian flag.

Trudeau suggested that Trump was joking about annexing his country, but the pair met recently at Trump's Mar-a-Lago club in Florida to discuss Trump's threats to impose a 25% tariff on all Canadian goods.

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# SPORTS

B1

Tuesday, December 24, 2024



David Campbell

Shawe's Matthew Vaughn competes during the meet at Madison on Thursday.



David Campbell

Southwestern's Natalee Crawford swims in the individual medley during the meet at Madison on Thursday.



David Campbell

Madison's Camdyn Sever swims during one of his dominating wins in a meet at home on Thursday.

## Madison swimmers sweep every event in quad-meet at home

BY THE COURIER STAFF

Madison's swimmers claimed wins in every event for a dominating sweep of Southwestern, Shawe and Trinity Lutheran at home on Thursday.

On Saturday, Southwestern sophomore Natalee Crawford broke the Rebels' school record in the 100-yard backstroke during the Floyd Central Invitational. Crawford's time of 1:03.99 broke her sister Raygan's record set in 2022.

Picking up wins for Madison's girls on Thursday were: Tayleigh Johnson, 200 free, 2:17.72 and 100 breast, 1:18.51;

Lilly Canida, 200 IM, 2:20.61 and 100 fly, 1:00.83; Reilly Kuppler, 50 free, 25.92 and 100 free, 56.28; Reagan Wynn, 500 free, 6:28.96; Avery Johnson, 100 back, 1:44.99; Avery Johnson, Tayleigh Johnson, Canida

and Kuppler, 200 medley relay, 1:59.76; Tayleigh Johnson, Emma Wynn, Penelope Bibbs and Kira Brittain, 200 free relay, 2:01.04; and Kuppler, Wynn, Avery Johnson and Canida, 400 free relay, 4:03.27.

Picking up wins for Madison's boys on Thursday were: Camdyn Sever, 200 free, 1:50.33 and 100 free, 49.80; Garrett Klein, 50 free, 24.89 and 100 fly, 58.49; William Overpeck, 100 breast, 1:08.93; Cole Goodknight, Overpeck, Klein and Sever, 200 medley relay, 1:50.66; and Trenton Schafer, Goodknight, Klein and Sever, 200 free relay, 1:44.99.

Other top finishes for Madison's girls were: Wynn, second, 200 free, 2:20.30 and third, 100 breast, 1:34.51; Laura Boles, second, 500 free, 7:38.92; Bibbs, third, 200 IM, 2:51.82 and third, 100 back, 1:17.46; Avery John-



David Campbell

Madison's Lilly Canida competes in the individual medley during Thursday's meet at home.

son, third, 50 free, 27.29; Sophie Guirguis, third, 100 fly, 1:28.45; Ruthi Whitaker, third, 500 free, 8:16.81; and Brittain, Wynn, Bibbs and Boles, third, 200 medley relay, 2:22.65.

Other top finishes for Madison's boys were: Trenton Scha-

fer, second, 50 free, 25.16 and third, 100 free, 58.22; Goodknight, second, 100 free, 56.93 and second, 100 breast, 1:15.87; and Overpeck, third, 50 free, 52.88.

Finishes for Southwestern's girls on Thursday were: Natalee Crawford, second, 200 IM, 2:29.81 and second, 100 fly, 1:06.02; Raygan Crawford, second, 100 free, 1:01.58 and second, 100 back, 1:10.57; Riley

Crawford, Natalee Crawford, Raygan Crawford and Alexis Dean-Wells, second, 200 medley relay, 2:10.57 and second, 400 free relay, 4:21.12; Sophia Carie, Dean-Wells, Adalei Watson and Trihn Tu, second, 200 free relay, 2:35.47; Riley Crawford, third, 200 free, 2:22.60 and third, 100 free, 1:10.82; Watson, fourth, 200 free, 2:48.19 and fourth, 100 breast, 1:37.85; Dean-Wells, fifth,

100 back, 1:26.67; Carie, sixth, 50 free, 34.32 and sixth, 100 free, 1:17.85; and Tu, eighth, 50 free, 52.88.

Shawe's Matthew Vaughn placed second in the boys 200 freestyle in 1:55.43 and second in the 100 butterfly in 59.80, and Orin Elkins was fourth in the boys 50 freestyle in 29.26 and fourth in the 100 freestyle in 1:05.51.

Southwestern's Shane Hardy was fifth in the boys 50 freestyle in 30.59 and fifth in the 100 freestyle in 1:14.84, and Robert De Paz Gonzalez was sixth in the 50 freestyle in 35.98 and sixth in the 100 freestyle in 1:25.24.

All three local schools are off until after the Christmas break. Madison hosts Salem on Tuesday, Jan. 7 and Southwestern hosts Shawe and Switzerland County on Thursday, Jan. 9.

## Madison rallies in 2nd half to knock off Austin, 68-64

BY DAVID CAMPBELL

Madison used a huge third-quarter run to seize the lead then held off a late charge to beat Austin 68-64 at home on Saturday for the Cubs' second-straight win.

Madison entered the third quarter trailing by eight (34-26) but by the time the period expired, the Cubs had blitzed into a 51-45 lead thanks a dominating 25-11 run.

But the game was far from over and not until three free throws in the final three seconds — aided by an Austin technical foul — iced the win for the Cubs.

"Man, I'm super proud of my guys. They're really showing that they're able to fight," Madison coach Danny Gibson said. "I think last year they might have given that game away, but they really showed a lot of fighting. Showed a will to win."

Madison (2-5) picked up its first win of the season with a dominating victory over North Decatur earlier in the week but win number two wasn't going to be as easy. Austin hit its first three shots from the floor and led throughout the first half including an 18-10 margin after one and a 34-26 lead at halftime.

But there were signs that Madison was turning the game around even as Austin was still holding the lead. Six-foot-four junior Xander Ritchie scored eight points early for the Eagles to punish the Cubs inside and Austin knocked down four 3-pointers in the game's first 10 minutes.

But Madison shut down both of those options in the second quarter and it paid off in the third when the Cubs went to work.

Landon True started off the Madison third quarter with a 3-pointer and Mason Davis knocked down a trey moments later. The rest of the frame belonged to Damon Harden, who caught fire and drilled four triples over that span to kick-start an 11-0 run. Harden's 3-pointer with 29 seconds left in the period capped a 20-7 Cub run.

Madison's lead reached eight (60-52) on a Carlos Salom basket with 4:50 to go in the game before Austin began to claw back. Kaden White hit a 3-pointer and Tracen Roush scored five-straight points as the Eagles tied the game 60-60 with 2:34 to go. The two teams then traded baskets and it was still tied with 1:44 left.

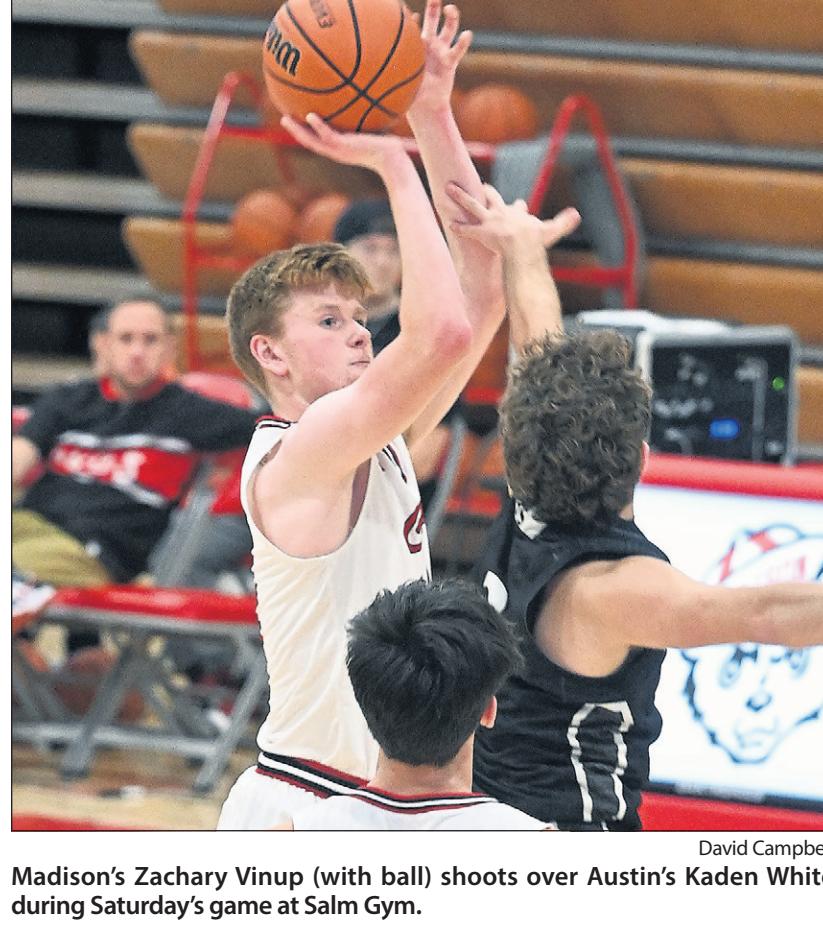
True hit his fifth 3-pointer of the game to push Madison ahead 65-62 with 34 seconds to go and that's where the score still stood with time winding down. Austin missed a 3-pointer but Brooks Swank grabbed a rebound and putback for two points to close the gap to one with three seconds left.

Austin called timeout but the



David Campbell

Madison's Mason Davis (1) works against Austin's Kaden White (3) during Saturday's game at home.



David Campbell

Madison's Zachary Vinup (with ball) shoots over Austin's Kaden White during Saturday's game at Salm Gym.

Eagles has already used all of their timeouts so a technical foul was called. Harden hit one of the free throws and, after the Cubs were fouled on the inbounds, True hit both shots to clinch the win.

True finished with 21 points, Harden had 20 and Davis scored 19 as the Cubs put together an impressively balanced scoring attack. The three also combined to hit 10 3-pointers.

"These guys put in a lot of work during the week," Gibson said.

"I've been telling people the shoot-

ing is not a fluke, because they're getting a lot of shots up during the week."

Swank scored 18 points and Roush and Ritchie scored 14 each to lead Austin (2-5).

Madison's next games will come in the Jefferson County Invitational Tournament at Southwestern starting on Friday. The Cubs will face Christian Academy of Indiana at 12:50 p.m. and Brownstown at 8 p.m. in Friday's pool play. The tournament will wrap up on Saturday.

## Shawe knocks off Crothersville in double overtime, 97-91

BY THE COURIER STAFF

Shawe used heroics to force two overtimes then pulled away at the end for a thrilling 97-91 win over Crothersville in boys basketball Friday at home.

The Hilltoppers trailed by 12 at the half but rallied, getting huge shots by Cavaan Hambrick to send the game into overtime and by Braiden Smith to force the second OT. Shawe then dominated the second extra session to close out the win.

"We never gave up and I am proud of the boys," Shawe coach Dan Hambrick said. "We have a lot of young guys out there playing serious minutes and they will just get better and better."

Crothersville outscored Shawe by nine in the second quarter and took a 38-26 lead into halftime. But the Hilltoppers regrouped and outscored Crothersville 23-15 in the third to get back into the game and 23-19 in the fourth with Cavaan Hambrick's driving layup with five seconds left sending the game into overtime.

Shawe trailed by three with 10 seconds to go in the first overtime but Smith drilled a 3-pointer with two seconds to go to force the

second extra session.

"We drew up a play for a pick and pop for Braiden Smith and he nailed it to give us a chance," coach Hambrick said.

Free throws and solid defense in the second overtime allowed Shawe to take control of the game as the Hilltoppers outscored Crothersville 14-5 in the final session to seize the win.

"Players were fouling out on both teams and we used all of our bench to step in and get this win," Hambrick said. "What a game. It was great to get the win and we worked hard for it. I am really proud of this group."

Smith had a monster game with a career-high 36 points and 16 rebounds to lead Shawe. Cavaan Hambrick posted a career-high in points and scored 24, Loren Stiver had 17 points and eight rebounds and Gus Grote had a career-high 14 points and seven assists.

Shawe, now 2-4 on the season, plays in the Rumble on the River Tournament at Trimble County starting on Friday. The Hilltoppers will face Carroll County in the opening round of the event which concludes on Saturday.

### LOCAL SPORTS CALENDAR

TUESDAY, DEC. 24

No local events

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 25

No local events

THURSDAY, DEC. 26

BASKETBALL

Southwestern girls vs. Columbus East, Hauser Tourney, 2 p.m.

Madison girls vs. South Decatur, Hauser Tourney, 6 p.m.

Carroll Co. girls vs. Iroquois, Browning Classic at Carroll Co., 8:15 p.m.

FRIDAY, DEC. 27

BASKETBALL

Carroll Co. girls, Browning Classic at Carroll Co., TBA

Madison, Southwestern girls, Hauser Tourney, TBA

Southwestern boys host Clarksville, Purdue Poly, JCIT at Southwestern, 11 a.m., 6:10 p.m.

Switzerland Co. boys host Cascade, Switzerland Co. Classic, 12:30 p.m.

Madison boys vs. Christian Academy, Brownstown, JCIT at Southwestern, 12:50 p.m., 8 p.m.

Trimble Co. girls vs. Valley, Berea Tournament, 2:45 p.m.

Trimble Co. boys vs. Rising Sun, Columbus Christian, Rumble on the River at Trimble Co., 4:50 p.m., 8 p.m.

Shawe boys vs. Carroll Co., Rumble on the River at Trimble Co., 6:40 p.m.

WRESTLING

Madison, Switzerland Co. boys at Connersville, 9 a.m.

## WRESTLING ROUNDUP:

## Madison girls place 2nd in inaugural Lady Cub Classic

BY THE COURIER STAFF

Madison's girls wrestling team produced three individual champions and finished second in the inaugural Lady Cub Classic at Madison on Saturday.

Maya Bullock, Maylie Skinner and Brooklyn Neece each won their respective weight classes. Savannah Resendiz-Mack placed second, Angelina Yantz, Bella Zuckschwerdt and Jolene Kennett placed third and Kearstin Phillips was fourth.

Switzerland County's Klaire Redwine won her weight class while Payton Stow and Miley Stroud both placed fourth.

Madison competes at Whiteland on Saturday. Both Madison and Switzerland County will next compete in the first-ever IHSAA Girls Sec-

tional at Floyd Central on Friday, Jan. 3.

## CUBS, PACERS WRESTLE AT COLUMBUS EAST

The boys wrestling teams from Madison and Switzerland County competed in the Columbus East Invitational on Saturday.

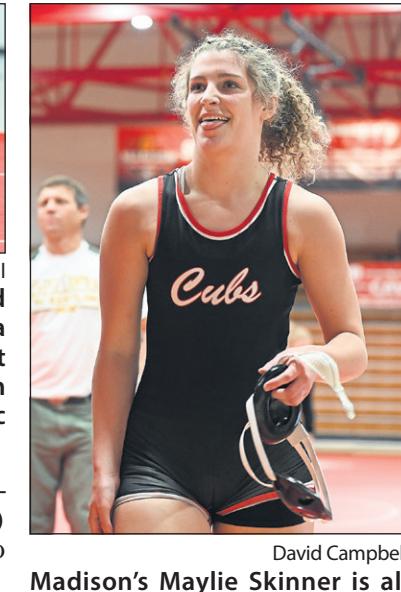
Columbus East won the 16-team tournament with 290 points with Terre Haute South placing second with 218.5. Switzerland County finished sixth with 132.5 and Madison was eighth with 131 points.

Switzerland County's Peyton Richards picked up four wins, all by fall or technical fall, to claim the 138-pound weight class. Richards posted a 15-1 technical fall over Terre Haute South's

Nathan Bryan in the championship bout.

Gabe Rose placed second in the 144 weight class for Switzerland, Ethan Rose (126 pounds) and Ethan Jones (150) each placed third, Dakota Fields (132) was fifth, Leo Oatman (106) and Michael Gross (113) each placed seventh and Landon Gross (120), Jaksyn Smithson-Cox (157), Landon Penhall (165) and Jacoby McKay (175) each failed to place.

Ethan Pittman (120), Drew Zuckschwerdt (126), Segar Ralston (138), Garrett Deusner (175) and Ayden Waggoner (190) each placed fourth to lead Madison. Grayson Hughes (165) and Brendan Bentz (144) each placed fifth, Taye Labolt (157) and Nathan McBride (215)



Switzerland County's Miley Stroud (top) works on Madison's Bella Zuckschwerdt. Zuckschwerdt place third and Stroud was fourth in the inaugural Lady Cub Classic at Madison on Saturday.

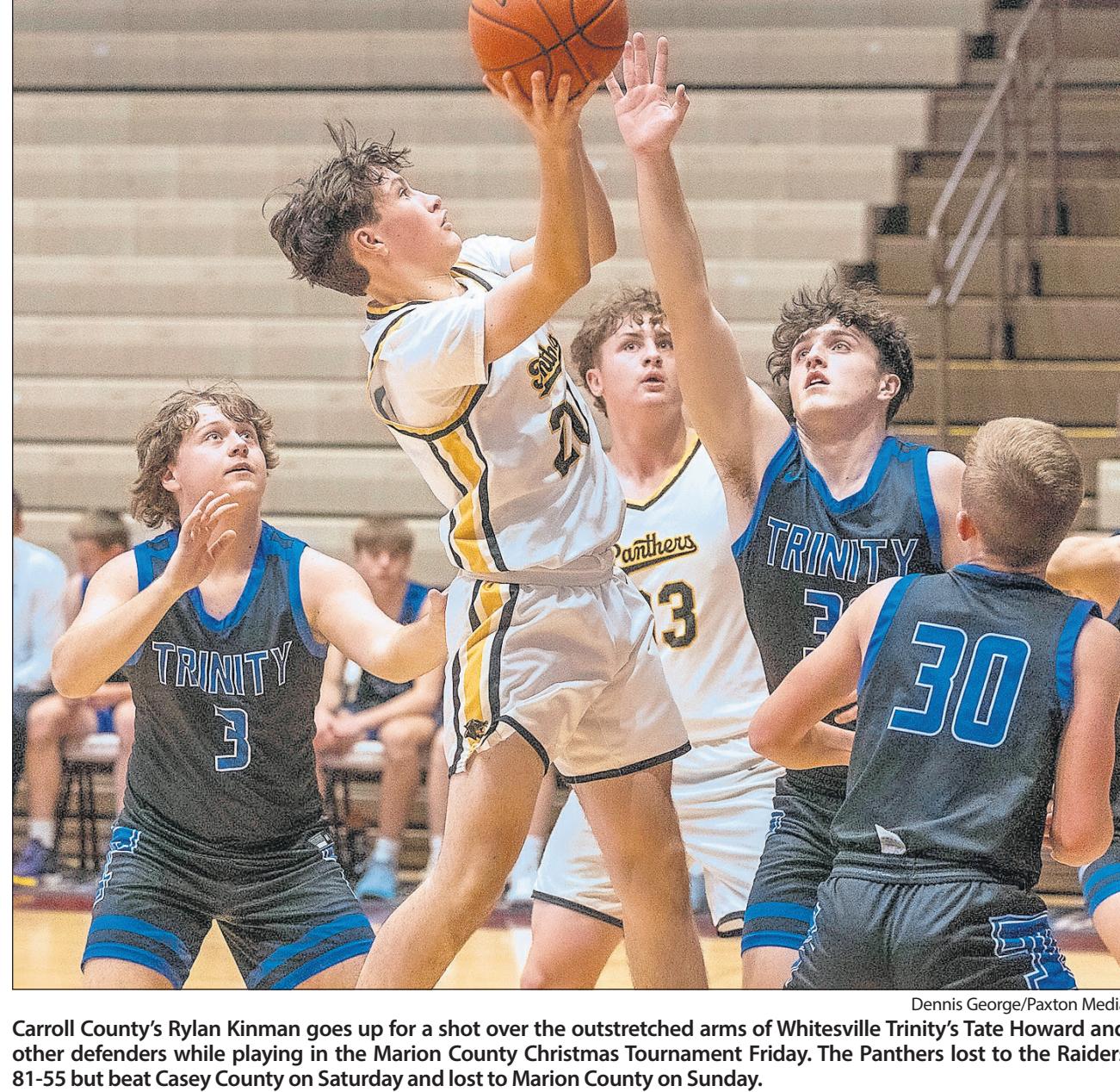
placed eighth and Trenton Bivens (132), Owen Wilburn (150) and A.J. Badillo (190) failed to place.

Both Madison and Switzerland County compete at Connersville on Friday and Saturday.

David Campbell

Madison's Maylie Skinner is all smiles after winning her weight class at the Lady Cub Classic on Saturday.

## BASKETBALL ROUNDUP



Dennis George/Paxton Media

Carroll County's Rylan Kinman goes up for a shot over the outstretched arms of Whitesville Trinity's Tate Howard and other defenders while playing in the Marion County Christmas Tournament Friday. The Panthers lost to the Raiders 81-55 but beat Casey County on Saturday and lost to Marion County on Sunday.

## Southwestern boys hammer Jac-Cen-Del, 72-57

BY THE COURIER STAFF

Southwestern boys basketball picked up a 72-57 win at Jac-Cen-Del on Friday.

Landon Kidwell had 30 points to lead the Rebels while Brady Cook scored 15, Braxton Lewis had 14 and Caleb Goode had nine.

Southwestern, now 5-1 overall and 2-0 in the Ohio River Valley Conference, faces Clarksville in the opening round of the Jefferson County Invitational at Southwestern on Friday. The tourney concludes on Saturday.

## LADY REBS HAMMER ROCK CREEK

Southwestern girls basketball picked up a 57-26 win over Rock Creek Academy on the road last Thursday.

Rorie Scroggins had 13 points to lead Southwestern while Mikayla Nussbaum scored 12 points and Chloe Leach added 10.

Southwestern, now 9-4 on the season, faces Columbus East in the opening round of the Hauser Tournament on Thursday.

## LADY CUBS FALL TO JENNINGS

A poor start doomed Madison's girls in a 64-45 basketball loss at Jennings County last Thursday.

Madison trailed 18-5 after the first quarter and never recovered, falling behind 36-17 at the half and 51-29 after three quarters.

Juliana Davis had 24 points, seven rebounds, five assists and four steals for the Cubs. Addison Roark added 12 points and five rebounds.

Madison, now 7-2 on the season, faces South Decatur in the opening game of the Hauser Tournament on Thursday. The tournament continues through Saturday.

## SHAWE FALLS TO HENRYVILLE

Shawe got off a great start but faded in the second half in a 48-36 loss at home to Henryville in girls basketball last Thursday.

The Hilltoppers led 19-8 after the first quarter and 26-18 at halftime. But Shawe scored just 10 points in the second half as Henryville caught the Hilltoppers and pulled away.

Audrey Barron scored 20 points and Ava Turner had 10 to lead Shawe, which saw a seven-game win streak snapped.

Shawe, now 9-3 on the season, competes in the Edinburgh Tournament starting Jan. 2.

## RAIDERS LOSE TO GALLATIN

Trimble County fell 73-46 at home to Gallatin County on Thursday.

Ethan Keller scored 12 points and Hudson Jent had 11 for the Raiders.

Trimble, now 1-7 overall and 0-3 in the 31st District, hosts the Rumble on the River Tournament beginning on Friday. The Raiders face Rising Sun in the first game.

## TRIMBLE GIRLS FALL TO GALLATIN

Trimble County's girls suffered a 49-43 loss at home to Gallatin County on Friday.

Jolie Wilcoxson and Ainslie Stark each had 15 points to lead the Raiders.

Trimble, now 3-2 overall and 2-1 in the 31st District, faces Valley in the opening round of the Berea Holiday Classic on Friday.

## LADY PACERS GO 1-2

Switzerland County's girls won one game and lost two in the Henry County (Ky.) Invitational over the weekend.

On Friday, Switzerland lost 74-35 to Anderson County. On Saturday, the Pacers lost 67-39 to Grant County but then beat Henry County 59-42.

Switzerland, now 4-10 on the season, travels to Batesville on Friday, Jan. 3.

## CARROLL BOYS 1-2 AT MARION

Carroll County boys basketball went 1-2 in the Marion County Christmas Tournament over the weekend.

The Panthers defeated Casey County 59-39 on Saturday for the Panthers' second win of the season after losing to Whitesville Trinity 81-55 on Friday and to tourney host Marion County 81-42 on Sunday. Marion went 3-0 to the event. Trinit was 2-1, Carroll 1-2 and Casey 0-3.

Carroll (2-6) will now play Shawe Memorial Dec. 27 and Rising sun and Columbus Christian Dec. 28 in a tournament at Shawe's Meny Gym in Madison.

## CARROLL GIRLS DROP 2 ON ROAD

Carroll County girls basketball played back-to-back road games for the first time this season and lost at Owen County on Friday and at Paris on Saturday.

The Panthers lost 47-36 at Owen as Kelby Maiden scored 15 and Cloie McGuire had 11. Carroll then lost 76-52 at Paris.

The Panthers (3-4) now host the Pam Browning Classic on Thursday in Carrollton with Boone County, Gallatin County, Oldham County, Nicholas County, Shelby County, Ludlow and Iroquois competing. Carroll opens with the late game against Iroquois.

## Switzerland girls swim to tri-meet win

BY THE COURIER STAFF

Switzerland County's girls swim team claimed a tri-meet victory over Rising Sun and South Ripley at home on Saturday.

The Lady Pacers scored 66 points with South Ripley getting 60 and Rising Sun 29. Rising Sun scored 86 points to win the boys event, South Ripley was second with 83 and Switzerland was third with 53.

Finishes for the Switzerland girls were: Molly Hicks, first, 100 back and second, 200 IM; Piper Taylor, first, 200 free and second, 500 free; Molly Hicks, Eva Hicks, Taylor and Lily Jester, first, 200 medley relay and first, 200 free relay; Eva Hicks, second, 100 free and second, 100 back; and Jester, third, 100 free and third, 100 back.

Finishes for the Switzerland boys were: Caleb Ridener, first, 200 IM and

second, 100 fly; and Seth Burke, third, 50 free and fourth, 100 free.

Last Tuesday, Switzerland County competed in the Rivertown Classic at South Dearborn. South Dearborn won the event with a combined score of 266 points, Lawrenceburg was second with a 146, Rising Sun was third with 83 and Switzerland was fourth with 53.

Taylor won the girls 500 freestyle and was second in the 200 freestyle, Molly Hicks won the 100 butterfly and was second in the 100 breaststroke, Ridener won the boys 200 individual medley and was first in the 100 butterfly and Harlowe Haines was second in the boys 500 freestyle and second in the 200 freestyle.

Switzerland County returns to action on Wednesday, Jan. 8 when the Pacers host Providence and South Ripley.



Southwestern seventh-grader Harper Green earned her third All-American honor of the year with a sixth-place finish in the USATF Junior Olympic National Championships in Shelbyville on Saturday, Dec. 16.



Submitted Photo Southwestern third-grader McKenzie Garvey earned All-American honors with an 11th-place finish in the USATF Junior Olympic National Championships in Shelbyville on Saturday, Dec. 16.

## COURIER AREA SPORTS SHORTS

BY THE COURIER STAFF

— Southwestern's Harper Green and McKenzie Garvey earned All-American honors after strong races in the USATF Junior Olympic National Championships in Shelbyville on Saturday, Dec. 14.

Green, a seventh-grader at Southwestern Middle School, finished sixth overall in the 11-12 age group to earn her third All-American title during 2024. Sixth-grader Callie Farmer also competed in the race and finished in the top 200.

Garvey, a third-grader at Southwestern Elementary, placed 11th in the 7-8 age division for her first All-American honors.

— Southwestern eighth grade girls basketball won the South Ripley Tournament on Saturday with the seventh graders placing second.

Last Wednesday, Southwestern swept Shawe in a pair of games with the seventh grade winning 43-9 and the eighth grade winning 40-33.

Kennedy Scroggins had nine points to lead Southwestern and Payton Laskowski had four points for Shawe in the seventh grade game. Elena Watson and Josie Hubbard each had 15 points for Southwestern and Brylee Liter had 24

points for Shawe in the eighth grade game.

On Monday, Southwestern swept Jennings County with the seventh grade winning 41-7 and the eighth grade winning 41-24.

Kaylee Garvey had 11 points and Elena Watson had 10 for the seventh grade. Josie Watson had 13 points and Watson 12 for the eighth grade.

— Madison junior varsity boys basketball lost 60-34 at home to Austin on Saturday.

Brady Copeland led the Cubs with 11 points and Ethan Norris scored nine.

Madison is now 0-7 on the season. The Cubs next host Scottsburg on Friday, Jan. 10.

— Shawe junior varsity boys basketball lost 52-34 at home to Crothersville on Friday.

Nate Fewell and Jack Purvis scored six points each for Shawe.

— Shawe Junior High boys basketball split with Austin on Thursday.

The seventh grade won 44-30. Patrick Kahn had 23 points and Tanner Sims scored 13 for the Cubs.

The eighth grade lost 53-20. Clark Nicther had 11 points and Kellen Martin had four for the Hilltoppers (5-7).

# Notre Dame turns back Indiana 27-17 in CFP

BY MICHAEL MAROT  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SOUTH BEND — Marcus Freeman learned the hard lessons from all those big losses as well as the inexplicable ones.

On Friday night, in the first game in college football's new playoff era, the Notre Dame coach celebrated the most significant victory of his career — in Notre Dame Stadium with snowflakes flying and players singing the school's alma mater.

Jeremiah Love tied the school record with a 98-yard touchdown run on the third play of the game, Riley Leonard accounted for two more scores and the Fighting Irish held high-scoring Indiana in check, giving seventh-seeded Notre Dame its first ever playoff victory, 27-17 over the Hoosiers.

"There's not many times in your life that you're the first to do something, right?" Freeman said. "We're the first group to play and win a playoff game at Notre Dame Stadium, so that's something we'll share for the rest of our lives."

He and the Irish (12-1) have a day or two to savor their 11th consecutive win to tie the school record for most wins in a season — their first in four playoff tries.

But it's only one step. Next up is SEC champion Georgia (11-2) in the Sugar Bowl and a chance to reach the semifinals as they chase their first national title since 1988.

"It's really cool, but at the same time it's another football game," said Leonard, who ran for one record-breaking score and threw for another. "We're just trying to stay alive and play as many games as we can because we love the game, love preparing for it and we love representing this university."

If they play as well as they did against 10th-seeded Indiana (11-2), the Irish just might end the program's longest title drought



Indiana wide receiver Elijah Sarratt (13) pulls in 28-yard reception as Notre Dame cornerback Christian Gray (29) defends during the first half in the first round of the NCAA College Football Playoff on Dec. 20, in South Bend, Ind.

Darron Cummings/ASSOCIATED PRESS

since winning their first claimed championship in 1924.

Notre Dame seized control quickly thanks to Love's incredible early burst and they eventually ended the Hoosiers magical season despite giving up 14 points in the final 87 seconds in the same venue they nearly saw their season derailed Sept. 7 with a 16-14 loss to Northern Illinois.

This time, they left no doubt on a chilly, brisk stage for the first CFP game ever played on a campus site, handing the Hoosiers their second straight loss to a top five opponent this season. Indiana set a single-season school record for wins but still hasn't won at Notre Dame since 1898.

"They took it to us. I thought their quarterback played really well, I thought their defense suffocated our offense till the last 1:50 or whatever," said Hoosiers coach Curt Cignetti, the AP Coach of the Year. "They won, they deserved to win. We didn't play our best game, but they had a lot to do with that tonight."

It started with Xavier Watts' interception of Kurtis Rourke's pass at the Irish 2.

On the next play, Love scooted around the right side of the defense, eluded one tackle and sprinted down the sideline to make it 7-0. He tied Josh Adams for the longest run in Irish history, set in 2015 against Wake Forest. It was also the longest run in

CFP history.

Love finished with eight carries for 108 yards despite not being full strength and appearing to reinjure his left knee later in the first half.

"I was looking up at the video board — he wasn't going to catch me," Love said.

Indiana never recovered after Notre Dame made it 14-0 early in the second quarter. Leonard's 1-yard TD run late in the fourth gave him 15 this season to break Notre Dame's season record by a quarterback.

Leonard was 23 of 32 with 201 yards, one touchdown and one interception. Notre Dame receiver Jordan Faison caught seven passes for 89 yards.

Indiana quarterback Kurtis

Rourke turned in another poor game against a strong defense, finishing 20 of 33 with 215 yards, with two TDs and one interception and the Hoosiers rushed for just 63 yards.

And for Freeman and Notre Dame, it was more than a relief. It was time to revel in victory.

"There's no place like Notre Dame," Leonard said. "This is why you come here, this is why I came here — to play for a (national) championship."

## TAKEAWAYS

Indiana: The Hoosiers trailed fewer minutes than any other FBS team this season entering the playoffs and had the highest-scoring team in the playoffs. They didn't do either Friday night against a stout Irish defense that rattled Rourke early.

Notre Dame: The Irish have relied on the running game and defense all season — and it was that combination that gave Notre Dame the first playoff win in school history. They may need more out of their passing game to win their first national championship since 1988.

## ONE MESSAGE

Cignetti wavered from his blunt-talking ways momentarily after the season-ending loss to express just how special this season was for an Indiana team that put itself back in the national conversation.

"No one's as disappointed as I am, but sometimes you're going to have a disappointment and you have come back from it," he said. "This team accomplished things no other Indiana team did."

## UP NEXT

Indiana will spend the offseason trying to replicate what they built in Year 1 under coach Curt Cignetti.

Notre Dame plays Georgia in the Sugar Bowl on New Year's Day.

## College playoffs hope for better matchups after blowouts

BY EDDIE PELLS  
AP NATIONAL WRITER

For those who dozed through it, or flipped to more compelling fare in the NFL, here's a brief recap of the rollout of the much-anticipated College Football Playoff.

Average final score: Winners 36, Losers 17.

In four games, not a single one was closer than a 10-point margin, and even that one felt worse. In 240 minutes of action spread across those four games, there was a grand total of one lead change.

This bold, new experiment was supposed to bring more programs from more parts of the country into the loop of a largely regional sport that had been dominated by about a half-dozen teams for the last decade.

Instead, it will take another 10 days to find out if "more" really means more — or if more just means a few weeks of what we just saw before arriving at what we had before — a group of four contenders battling it out for a title that only they had any realistic chance to win.

One part that did feel like a success was that the stands were full in all

four stadiums — at Texas, Notre Dame, Penn State and Ohio State.

"I think college football got this one right," Texas coach Steve Sarkisian said after the Longhorns beat Clemson 38-24 in front of a packed house in what turned out to be the weekend's most compelling game.

"As much as we critique some of the things that are happening in our game right now, this idea of a home playoff game with this 12-team format, this was pretty special."

The TV ratings will paint a fuller picture, especially of the decision to run directly against two NFL games, both of which came down to the fourth quarter.

Could the quarterfinals bring more of the same?

The quarterfinals come over the New Year's holiday, where we'll get more clarity not only about who might win the title, but whether the CFP as it is structured is as good as it can be. The matchups (and issues involved in all of them):

Fiesta Bowl, Dec. 31, No. 6 Penn State vs. No. 3 Boise State: The rules called for the four high-

est-ranked conference champions to receive first-round byes, and so you get this. Penn State is the worse seed but is a 10 1/2-point favorite over the Mountain West Conference champions.

Boise State has the nation's leading rusher in Ashton Jeanty. Penn State is probably bigger and faster at every other position.

Peach Bowl, Jan. 1, No. 5 Texas vs. No. 4 Arizona State: See above for thoughts about byes, potential mismatches and pairings that might have made more sense had they come earlier. Texas is a 13 1/2-point favorite.

But, the Sun Devils of the Big 12 are the closest thing this tournament has to a Cinderella — in win-or-you're-done territory since Nov. 2, and with a pair of eminently entertaining players in quarterback Sam Leavitt and running back Cam Skattebo.

Rose Bowl, Jan. 1, No. 8 Ohio State vs. No. 1 Oregon: Had the rule-makers chosen to reseed the bracket after the first round to give Oregon a game against the highest-seeded team left, this would have been

the matchup anyway. But do we really want a rematch of possibly the best game in college football this season — Oregon's 32-31 win over Ohio State in October — in the quarterfinals?

Sugar Bowl, Jan. 1, No. 7 Notre Dame at No. 2 Georgia: Reports are that Bulldogs quarterback Carson Beck might be done for the season after hurting his elbow in the SEC title game. The selection committee was supposed to consider injuries in its rankings, but probably didn't have enough information to make an informed decision at the time.

Long ago, in a galaxy far away, Georgia beat Notre Dame in the 1981 Sugar Bowl to capture its second national title.

### THE TRANSFER PORTAL CHIPS AWAY AT ROSTERS

The transfer portal will (thankfully?) close Dec. 28, meaning the steady trickle of departures from teams with title hopes will not infiltrate the headlines as we head into football's elite eight.

But this entire setup is awkward. Arizona State lost 12 players to the por-

tal after it opened on Dec. 9. Tennessee lost 11. The highest-profile departure was Penn State backup quarterback Beau Pribula. Whether these players would've been on the field much (they wouldn't, which is probably why some left) almost seems beside the point.

For decades, playing to win a championship was thought to be the north star for any elite athlete. Or so we thought. There is a lot of money available, and it's also not hard to blame a player for trying to max out his earning potential in the new world of college football endorsements.

"I think everybody that follows the sport understands that it's a unique time of year," Tennessee coach Josh Heupel said. "I'm not in charge of that. Do I think they need to find a way to go through all the processes that they have right now, or things that are in the game but find a better calendar for it? Yeah, I think that would be best for the game for sure."

Deion not in the playoffs but his stars will be playing

There are another 28 bowl games remaining

that will have no implication on the national title. Maybe the best one is Dec. 28 when Heisman winner Travis Hunter and Colorado face BYU in the Alamo Bowl.

There's nothing particularly big on the line here, but there is a message being sent.

Colorado has two first-round draft picks on the roster in Hunter and the coach's son, quarterback Shedeur Sanders. Normally, they wouldn't find themselves anywhere near this game, for fear an injury could derail their pro prospects.

But they will play.

Coach Deion Sanders has shouldered his share of criticism for being the face of a largely transactional, money-driven NIL era. But his ability to steer his best two players to find meaning in a game with no stakes is as old-school as it gets, and the exact opposite of the transfer portal mess.

"It's not just a bowl game where we're going to go be merry and have a Merry Christmas and exchange gifts and do all of that," the coach explained. "No, we want to go there and play Buff football."

## Boise State's Jeanty, Penn State duo among best backs in nation

BY WILL GRAVES  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Boise State's Ashton Jeanty is the best running back in the country, with the stats and the hardware to prove it.

Jeanty's ever-churning legs are the biggest — but not only — reasons why the Broncos stormed to a 12-1 record and the third seed in the College Football Playoff.

Yet when Jeanty is on the sideline on New Year's Eve when Boise State faces sixth-seeded Penn State (12-2) in the Fiesta Bowl, he might be looking at the top running back tandem in college football.

At least, that's the way

the Nittany Lions duo of Nick Singleton and Kaytron Allen look at it.

"We always say we're

the best backfield in the

nation," Singleton said.

"We stand on it."

They are attempting to run with it, too. Singleton and Allen combined for 160 yards rushing and three touchdowns in a dominant 38-10 play-off-opening win over SMU on Saturday in the kind of physical performance that tends to travel pretty well this time of year.

Allen sprinted to the end zone from 25 yards out in the second quarter to put the Nittany Lions up 21-0.

His 4-yard burst early in

up 35 to give their fans an early start on pricing out tickets for the trip to Arizona.

In between, Singleton provided a thudding 1-yard score that left the 6-foot, 226-pound junior roaring.

He took the handoff from Drew Allar, followed a lead block from Cooper Cousins and slammed into a Mustang defender after crossing the goal line.

Singleton ran to the sideline and was greeted by head coach James Franklin, leading to an exchange — punctuated by a few words not suitable for family audiences — in which Singleton reminded Franklin of

how "violent" he can be.

"I'm trying to be a more physical runner, run through someone when the extra man is there,"

Singleton said.

In that way, Singleton and Allen are just following running back coach Jahuian Seider's orders. All Seider wants on a given running play is for the blockers to "leave one" for Singleton and Allen to beat.

If that happens, the Nittany Lions like their chances, no matter which one happens to have the ball in his hands at the moment.

There was plenty to like against SMU, which came in ranked in the top 10 in the country against the run. While it took

Penn State a while to get going, after early Pick-6s by Dominic DeLuca and Tony Rojas staggered the Mustangs, Allen and Singleton spent most of the next two quarters finishing SMU off.

Yet it's telling of just how special a season Jeanty is having that Singleton and Allen's combined rushing yardage — 1,820 through 14 games — is still nearly 700 yards shy of the 2,497 the Heisman runner-up produced by himself.

Jeanty has been able to gain yards no matter the opponent. Yet he will face perhaps his stiffest test this season when he takes on a Penn State defense that bounced back from a

shaky performance against No. 1 Oregon in the Big Ten title game by limiting SMU to a season-low 253 yards, including just 58 on the ground.

"I truly believe we are the best defense in the country by far, by any means," senior defensive tackle Dyon J-Thomas said.

Slowing down Jeanty — who has not rushed for less than 127 yards in a game this season — will give the Nittany Lions a chance to prove it on a national stage.

And it will give Allen and Singleton an opportunity to prove that sometimes in the running game, two backs are better than one.

# Taylor runs for 218 yards, 3 TD runs as Colts hold off Titans 38-30

BY MICHAEL MAROT

ASSOCIATED PRESS

INDIANAPOLIS — Jonathan Taylor took matters into his own hands Sunday.

And this time, he made sure he hung onto the ball each time he crossed the goal line.

One week after enduring perhaps the most embarrassing moment of his five-year NFL career, Taylor showed everyone that he learned his lesson by rushing for 218 yards and three scores, leading the Indianapolis Colts past the Tennessee Titans 38-30.

"Like I said, that was something that never happened before and would never happen again," Taylor said, referring to dropping the ball before crossing the goal line last week at Denver. "I already had predetermined in my mind, next time, I was going all the way through the tunnel."

He delivered on that promise after his first score, a 65-yard burst, rekindling memories of former Raiders star Bo Jackson at the same time he was trying to erase the thoughts of his mis-

cue that cost Indy a touchdown in a crushing loss to the Broncos.

But the first sprint was only the start for Taylor. He broke free for a 70-yard TD run on the first play of the second half, again carrying the football with two hands through the end zone, and capped the day with a 1-yard TD plunge.

Taylor needed 29 carries to post the second-highest single-game rushing total in the NFL this season. It was also the second-highest game total of his career, his most TD runs in a game since scoring four against Buffalo in 2021 and it put him over the 1,000-yard mark for the first time since he won the 2021 NFL rushing title.

Anthony Richardson had nine carries for 70 yards and one TD as Indy (7-8) had a franchise-record 335 yards rushing — 17 more than the previous mark set in 1956. Richardson's sixth TD run of the season also broke the franchise record for TD runs by a quarterback, and it came on a day he threw only 11 passes.

"You want to be able to run it every game, but, obviously, it

was going good today and guys were popping it," coach Shane Steichen said. "Single-game (franchise) record? Incredible. It's fun to watch."

For the Titans (3-12), it was the opposite — another bleak chapter in a miserable season.

Their fourth straight loss came with three more turnovers and the breakdowns of what has mostly been a pretty stingy defense. Two of the Titans past four opponents have rushed for at least 200 yards, and the final tally represented the most rushing yards allowed by the franchise since it moved from Houston to Nashville in the late 1990s.

"The speed of Jonathan Taylor showed up and we couldn't get him on the ground," Titans coach Brian Callahan said. "He had a couple of explosive runs, and sometimes that's all it takes."

Even the quarterback change, from Will Levis to Mason Rudolph, didn't help.

Rudolph wound up 23 of 34 with 252 yards, two touchdown passes and three interceptions and helped Tennessee close the gap from 38-7 by scoring

the final 23 points of the game. But Kenny Moore II's second interception of the game, as time expired, sealed the outcome.

The game got away from Tennessee quickly after Rudolph threw a picture-perfect 38-yard TD pass, Titans backup kicker Brayden Narveson came up short on a 53-yard field goal and Richardson tied the score with a 5-yard TD run early in the second quarter.

Taylor broke free with the 65-yard run, a short field goal gave Indy a 17-7 lead and Richardson capitalized on Moore's first interception with a 27-yard TD pass with 15 seconds left in the first half to make it 24-7.

Things only got worse for the Titans.

Taylor turned his next carry into a 70-yard score, going untouched in front of the Tennessee bench, protecting the ball with two hands. His 1-yard run made it 38-7 midway through the third quarter and the Titans spent the rest of the game playing catch-up.

"You get excited, sometimes maybe a little too excited, when you see that (open field)," Tay-

lor said, drawing laughter. "Then you just start analyzing, where are the defenders? Then it's like 'OK, it's just a foot race, I've got to get in.'"

## INJURY REPORT

**Titans:** Kicker Nick Folk missed the game with an abdominal injury and while DT T'Vondre Sweat (eye) returned, RG Dillon Radunz (shoulder). Callahan said LB Kenneth Murray Jr.'s injured wrist "doesn't look good for him." There were no updates on LB Otis Reed IV (ankle) or S Amani Hooker (shoulder).

**Colts:** Pro Bowl LG Quenton Nelson (ankle) left, but returned for Indy's final series. Starting CB Jaylon Jones (throat) and defensive back Tre Flowers (shoulder) did not return after getting injured. WR Alec Pierce (concussion) and LB E.J. Speed (knee) were both inactive.

## UP NEXT

The Titans close out their road schedule next Sunday at Jacksonville while the Colts visit the New York Giants next Sunday.

## Burrow throws 3 TDs as Bengals keep playoff hopes alive

BY JEFF WALLNER

ASSOCIATED PRESS

CINCINNATI — Joe Burrow and Ja'Marr Chase keep putting up extraordinary numbers, but the Cincinnati Bengals still need help to reach the playoffs.

Burrow threw three touchdown passes, including one as he was falling to the turf, and the Bengals kept their slim postseason hopes alive with a 24-6 victory over the Cleveland Browns on Sunday.

"This one just keeps us in the race," Burrow said. "It feels good to play in big games. It's exciting to still be in it."

The Bengals (7-8) have won three straight. They need to win their last two games and get some help to earn a play-off spot.

Burrow finished 23 of 30 for 252 yards and became the first quarterback in NFL history to throw for three or more TDs and 250 or more yards in seven straight games, surpassing the record of six set by Tom Brady in New England's undefeated 2007 season.

Chase had six catches for 97 yards and a garbage-time touchdown for Cincinnati to reach 1,510 yards this season and break his own franchise record of 1,455 yards set in 2021.

"It feels good, something I wanted to do," said Chase, who leads the NFL in receptions (108), receiving yards and TD catches (16). "Me being competitive, I wanted to compete with myself."

Burrow leads the league with 4,229 yards passing and 39 touchdowns.

With Dorian Thompson-Robinson replacing Jameis Winston at quarterback, Cleveland (3-12) missed some chances in the red zone.

Jerome Ford had a 66-yard run on the first play from scrimmage. But D'Onta Foreman fumbled on first-and-goal and Vonn Bell recovered.

"It's a 14-point swing," Bengals coach Zac Taylor said. "Not only did it take the life out of them a little bit, getting the stop on the 1-yard line then going 99 (yards) gave us a lot of confidence and set the tone."

In the third quarter, a holding penalty negated a TD run by Thompson-Robinson, who also had a pass intercepted in the end zone by Jordan Battle.

"Obviously, you turn the ball over in the red zone, especially the first one, you're not going to put yourself in position to get a win on the road," Browns coach Kevin Stefanski said. "Not a lack of effort. It's a lack of protecting the ball."

The Bengals cashed in on Foreman's fumble when Burrow, as he was falling, threw a 2-yard TD pass to Tee Higgins to cap an eight-play, 99-yard drive.

The Bengals' defense, which has struggled for most of the season, has forced nine turnovers in the past two games.

"The guys have done a great job on that side of the ball getting us extra possessions on offense," Taylor said.

Thompson-Robinson passed for 157 yards and two interceptions after being named the starter this week ahead of Winston, who was inactive with a shoulder injury. He had 49 yards rushing and was sacked five times.

Ford rushed for 93 yards and a touchdown on 11 carries.

Burrow threw a 32-yard touchdown pass to Chase with 1:44 left when the Bengals only needed to run out the clock.

### FRANCHISE MARK

Cincinnati's Cade York, a former Browns draft pick, tied a franchise record with a 59-yard field goal on the final play of the first half to make it 17-0.

It matched Evan McPherson's 59-yarder on Sept. 11, 2022. McPherson is on injured reserve with a groin injury.

"There was no ill will," York said about the Browns. "I really enjoyed my time over there. It was nice to beat them, though."

### GARRETT'S MILESTONE

Myles Garrett, who said this week the Browns franchise should be focused on winning and not rebuilding, recorded the 100th sack of his career in the second quarter.

"It made my dad proud," Garrett said. "He's been telling me through my last three weeks. I'm happy to get it done. There is no quitting in my blood."

Garrett has 12 sacks, joining Lawrence Taylor as the only players with 12 or more in five straight seasons.

### INJURIES

**Browns:** Two key starters returned in TE David Njoku and CB Martin Emerson Jr.

**Bengals:** RT Amarius Mims left the game with a left ankle injury and didn't return. LT Orlando Brown Jr. was inactive with an injured fibula.

### UP NEXT

The Browns host Miami Sunday. The

Bengals host Denver Saturday.

## Hoosiers hold off Chattanooga 74-65

BLOOMINGTON — Malik Reneau and Mackenzie Mgbako each scored 14 points and Indiana bounced back from suffering its first Big Ten Conference loss by holding off Chattanooga 74-65 Saturday to remain unbeaten at home.

Frank Champion hit two free throws to get Chattanooga within four at 67-63, but after Reneau and the Mocs' Trey Bonham traded baskets, Myles Rice and Trey Gallo each slashed to the basket for layups and Anthony Leal hit the sec-

ond of two free throws to close out the game.

Rice, a Washington State transfer averaging 12.4 points per game who scored 20 points in the 85-68 loss to Nebraska, came into the game shooting 56.9% from the field (37 of 65) but was

just 2 of 8 and missed all four from beyond the arc to finish with four points — the game's opening basket and his layup in the final minute.

Indiana (9-3) led by as

Honor Huff hit three 3-pointers to help the Mocs climb back.

Huff was 6 of 12 from beyond the arc and finished with 20 points to lead Chattanooga (8-5). Bonham and Bash Wieland each added 11 points.

Indiana has now won

all four meetings with the Mocs and is 8-0 at home.

The Hoosiers will play

host to Winthrop Dec.

29. Chattanooga opens

Southern Conference

play when it travels to

face Mercer on New

Year's Day.

## Ohio State routs No. 4 Kentucky 85-65

BY LARRY FLEISHER

ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Bruce Thornton scored 22 of his career-high 30 points in the second half and Ohio State cruised to an 85-65 victory over No. 4 Kentucky on Saturday in the CBS Classic at Madison Square Garden.

John Mobley Jr. added 15 points and Aaron Bradshaw scored 11 for Ohio State (8-4), which shot 56.6% and scored 36 points in the paint.

Otega Oweh hit a career-high 13 free throws and scored 21 points for Kentucky (10-2), which shot a season-worst 29.8%. Andrew Carr added 13 points and Jaxson Robinson had 10 as the Wildcats were held to their lowest point total this season.

The Buckeyes fared much better in their second neutral-site game against a top-five team in a week. They were blown out 91-57 by No. 2 Auburn on Dec. 14 in Atlanta.

After shooting 1 of 7 against Auburn, Thornton made 8 of 13 shots, including an off-balance jumper in the lane as the shot clock expired that put the Buckeyes up 64-51 with about 9 1/2 minutes left. He was 13 of 14 on free throws.

### TAKEAWAYS

**Ohio State:** Bradshaw returned after missing six games while the school

**The Buckeyes fared much better in their second neutral-site game against a top-five team in a week. They were blown out 91-57 by No. 2 Auburn on Dec. 14 in Atlanta.**

investigated a possible domestic incident at his off-campus apartment. Third-leading scorer Micah Parrish exited with a knee injury early in the second half.

**Kentucky:** Lamont Butler struggled after a scoring career-high 33 points last week against Louisville. He was held to four points on 1-of-7 shooting before fouling out.

### KEY MOMENT

Ohio State led 39-30 at halftime after outscoring Kentucky 19-9 over the final nine minutes and holding the Wildcats to one basket in that span.

### KEY STAT

Kentucky struggled immensely near the basket, missing 16 of 23 layups.

### UP NEXT

Ohio State hosts Indiana State on Dec. 29. Kentucky hosts Brown on Dec. 31.

## Broome leads No. 2 Auburn over No. 16 Purdue 87-69

BY JOHN ZENOR

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Johni Broome had 23 points and 11 rebounds in his return from a shoulder injury, and No. 2 Auburn beat No. 16 Purdue 87-69 on Saturday.

Broome had played only two minutes in the last game against Georgia State before hurting his right shoulder, but he and the Tigers (11-1) dominated the Boilermakers (8-4) most of the way.

Tahaad Pettiford had 18 points and five assists for Auburn, which led by 33 points with seven minutes left. Denver Jones added 15 points. The 6-foot-10 Broome shot 10 for 15 and got the crowd going with a 3-pointer just over a minute into the game.

C.J. Cox led Purdue with 16 points while Trey Kaufman-Renn had 15 points and eight rebounds. He was just 1 for 7 from the free throw line, all in the first half.

Fletcher Loyer had 12 points on 3-for-12 shooting, and Braden Smith added eight points and six assists but also committed five turnovers.

### TAKEAWAYS

**Purdue:** Fell to 2-2 against ranked SEC teams this season and was outclassed in a hostile environment. The

**Fletcher Loyer had 12 points on 3-for-12 shooting, and Braden Smith added eight points and six assists but also committed five turnovers.**

Boilermakers shot 45% (13 for 29) in the second half.

**Auburn:** Earned its fourth win over a ranked nonconference team this season, matching the program's regular season record.

### KEY MOMENT

Auburn took control after Purdue tied it at 15-all. The Tigers pushed the lead up to 18 points after that and led 41-26 at halftime. That was as close as it got. Pettiford scored eight down the stretch and Broome seven.

### KEY STATS

Auburn shot 10 for 26 on 3-pointers (38.5%). Cox was 3 for 5 for the Boilermakers but the rest of the team was just 5 for 18.

### UP NEXT

Purdue hosts Tulane on Dec. 29, and Auburn hosts Monmouth on Dec. 30.

# Reds trade Yanks for veteran catcher Trevino

CINCINNATI — The Cincinnati Reds acquired veteran catcher Jose Trevino in a trade with the New York Yankees on Friday.

Known more for his defensive ability, Trevino batted .215 with eight homers and 28 RBIs in 74 games for the AL East champions this year. He was a backup by the end of the year after rookie Austin Wells took over behind the plate.

Cincinnati sent reliever Fernando Cruz and catcher Alex Jackson to New York. Cruz went 3-8 with a

4.86 ERA in 69 appearances this season, striking out 109 in 66 2/3 innings. Jackson, who turns 29 on Wednesday, batted .122 with three homers in 58 games for Tampa Bay this year. He signed a minor league deal with Cincinnati last month.

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**ORDER SETTING HEARING**  
Comes now Vick Copeland, pro se, having filed a Verified Petition for Change of Name, and the Court finds that the matter should be set for hearing.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED** that this matter shall be heard on February 11, 2025 at 11:30 am. So ORDERED December 10, 2024

D.J. Mote  
Judicial Officer  
Distribution: 5762 W 150 N Madison, IN 47250 hspaxlp

The Reds also have

SEE REDS/PAGE B8

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## LEGAL NOTICE

### TO THE OWNERS OF THE WITHIN DESCRIBED REAL ESTATE AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

By virtue of a certified copy of a decree to me directed from the Clerk of Superior Court of Jefferson County, Indiana, in Cause No. 39D01-2407-MF-000667 wherein First Financial Bank was Plaintiff and Rodney Cole Webster was Defendant, requiring me to make the sum as provided for in said Decree with interest and cost, I will expose at public sale to the highest bidder, on the 23rd day of January, 2025, at the hour of 10:00am local time or as soon thereafter as is possible, at the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department, 1150 JA Berry Lane, Madison, Indiana 47250, the fee simple of the whole body of Real Estate in Jefferson County, Indiana.

**Lot No. Forty-one (41) in Kreeger & Hensier Subdivision No. 6, in the Town of Hanover, Jefferson County, Indiana, as recorded May 13, 1970, in Plat Book 2, Page 69, in the Office of the Recorder of Jefferson County, Indiana.**

Parcel ID No. 39-14-12-223-007.000-003

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Together with rents, issues, income, and profits thereof, said sale will be made without relief from valuation or appraisement laws.

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Morgan Pottinger McGarvey  
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Louisville, Kentucky 40202

Ben Flint  
Sheriff of Jefferson County, Indiana

Attorneys for Plaintiff

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# Penn State denies DeBeer-less Louisville 3-1 for NCAA title

BY GARY B. GRAVES  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Katie Schumacher-Cawley took in her milestone moment with a big smile, hugging confetti-covered players and supporters before hoisting the championship trophy that sets her apart from other volleyball coaches.

Other than one focus lapse, the Nittany Lions made sure she'd get it.

Jess Mruzik made 29 kills with a .315 hitting percentage, and Schumacher-Cawley became the first female coach to win a NCAA volleyball championship as Penn State defeated Louisville 3-1 in Sunday's final.

The Nittany Lions (35-2) earned their record eighth national championship and first since 2014 under the third-year coach, who has led the team while undergoing treatment for breast cancer that was diagnosed in September. Schumacher-Cawley has nonetheless

less conducted practices between treatments, a determined and emotional journey that provided a rallying point for players and garnered widespread support.

Penn State completed its mission with aggressive play that kept Louisville (30-6) on the defensive to win 25-23, 32-34, 25-20 and 25-17. The Nittany Lions' third-set rebound was especially critical after the Cardinals won an epic second set 34-32 by rallying from several deficits and fighting off nine Nittany Lion set points.

The Cardinals appeared reborn while the Nittany Lions were left to figure out what happened, and then get over it, which they also had to do on Thursday to make the finals after trailing 0-2 to Nebraska.

"We've lost the second set several times, so it's nothing new for us," Penn State outside hitter Camryn Hannah said. "All of us

talked about, like, we have to move on. The next set was a whole new game."

Schumacher-Cawley stood close by from the sideline as players converted kills, made crucial digs and blocks at the net, particularly in the final two sets. When the outcome was sealed, players formed a pile on the court as the coaches congratulated each other under a storm of confetti resembling snowflakes, some doing angels.

And plenty of plaudits for Schumacher-Cawley.

"I'm so fortunate to be surrounded by so many great people, from this team to the staff," she said, referring to inspiration she has got seeing a nearby children's hospital during treatments.

"I'm just really lucky to

have great people around me that go above and beyond. Sure, if I can be inspirational to someone, I can take that. But, you know, I feel good and I'm lucky to have people around me. And, I think that's why we were successful."

Cheering on was an NCAA indoor record crowd of 21,860, mostly dressed in Cardinals red.

Hannah added 19 kills with two blocks and Caroline Jurevicius had 10 kills for the Nittany Lions, who won their eighth straight title-game appearance. However, Mruzik set the tone by being where she was needed, finishing the job and making sure others did the same.

"I struggled a little bit to just to find my groove at the beginning," said Mruzik.

ik, who had 55 kills this weekend and was named most outstanding player. "But I was getting a ton of good information off the bench from my teammates and a ton of good information from the other girls on the court."

"What really clicked was all my teammates were looking at me saying, 'I have your back, let it rip.' And that just allowed me to play free."

Charitie Luper had 21 kills and Sofia Maldonado Diaz 20 for Louisville, which played without All-American hitter Anna DeBeer. The Louisville native sustained a right ankle injury in Thursday's semifinal against Pittsburgh and did not participate in pregame warmups.

Sunday's championship was already historic with

Schumacher-Cawley facing Louisville coaching counterpart Dani Busboom Kelly, ensuring a female coach would win a national title after 42 previous crowns won by male coaches. Busboom Kelly was making her second finals appearance in three seasons with the Cardinals.

"Hats off to Penn State, they played great today and we couldn't stop them," said Busboom Kelly, who also congratulated Schumacher-Cawley. "I felt like we could never catch up."

Both coaches had already won titles as players. Schumacher-Cawley helped Penn State win its first title in 1999, while Busboom Kelly helped Nebraska win the 2006 championship.

## UofL 3-point barrage defeats Florida State 90-76

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Reyne Smith scored 27 points off the bench and led a 3-point barrage in the second half that lifted Louisville to a 90-76 victory over Florida State on Saturday.

Smith made 8 of 12 shots overall and 6 of 9 3-pointers to go with 5-for-5 from the free-throw line. Terrence Edwards Jr. had 19 points, seven rebounds and eight assists for the Cardinals.

Louisville made 10 of 15 3-pointers in the second half, including Smith's 5 for 5. The Cardinals finished 15 for 29 from deep compared to Florida State's 8 for 20.

The Cardinals led by two points at halftime, then extended their lead early in the second half. An 8-0 run made it 59-50 with 15 1/2 minutes remaining and 3-pointers from Smith and Noah Waterman had Louisville out front 56-45 with 13 1/2 minutes left.

A 3-pointer by Jamir Watkins got the Semi-

noles within 62-58 but Smith answered with a pair of 3s and the Cardinals were back up by 10. The two 3-pointers capped a 6 1/2-minute stretch in which every Louisville point came on six 3-pointers, four by Smith.

Florida State cut it to six points a couple more times, but Smith's final 3 of the game gave the Cardinals an 80-68 lead with a little under 4 minutes remaining. They led by at least eight points the rest of the way.

Watkins led Florida State (9-4, 0-2 ACC) with 25 points, making 4 of 6 3-pointers. Malique Ewin added 17 points.

Chucky Hepburn scored 16 for Louisville (7-5, 1-1) and Waterman finished with 15 points. Smith, Hepburn and Waterman combined for 13 of Louisville's 15 3-pointers.

Louisville hosts Eastern Kentucky on Saturday. Florida State hosts Syracuse on Jan. 4.

## Pacers ride 70-point second half to rout of Kings 122-95

BY ERIC HE  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Pascal Siakam had 19 points and 10 rebounds, and the Indiana Pacers dominated the second half to rout the Sacramento Kings 122-95 on Sunday.

Siakam scored 13 points after halftime, when the Pacers outscored the Kings 70-43 after the game was tied at 52 at the break. The Pacers shot 58% for the game and made 17 3-pointers in their season-high fourth straight victory.

Myles Turner added 15 points and Ben Sheppard had 14 off the bench. Tyrese Haliburton, who started his career in Sacramento, had 14 points. Seven Pacers finished in double figures.

The Pacers took an 87-78 lead into the fourth quarter, and then started the period on a 17-5 run to take a 21-point advantage.

De'Aaron Fox had 23 points in the Kings' fourth straight loss. Domantas Sabonis had 17 points and 21 rebounds for his eighth straight double-double.

field goals, and they have scored 119 points or more points in each of their last four games.

**Kings:** The Kings fell a season-low four games under .500, eliciting boos from the home crowd after the final buzzer. Their prior three losses had come by a combined 18 points. Coach Mike Brown said before the game that Sacramento was struggling to make the one extra play that often determines close games — but Sunday's game was a blowout.

### KEY MOMENT

Ahead by 13 in the fourth, the Pacers went on an 8-0 run to seal the win. Sheppard made back-to-back 3-pointers, followed by a layup by Obi Toppin to put Indiana up 104-83.

### KEY STAT

The Pacers shot 62.5% (15 of 24) in the third quarter to take a nine-point lead into the fourth. The Kings were held to 36.5% shooting in the game.

### UP NEXT

The Pacers visit the Warriors on Monday, while the Kings host the Pistons on Thursday.

### TAKEAWAYS

**Pacers:** The Pacers recorded 35 assists on 50

TUESDAY EVENING												
Jefferson Switzerland	Trimble/ Carroll	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10	10:30	11
3 WAVE	6 2	WAV..	NBCN..	WAV..	News	★★★★★	It's a Wonderful Life (46)	James Stewart.	WAV..			
4 WTTV	4	CBS4..	CBSN..	BigBa..	Sheldon	Bocelli (N)	Price Is (N)	Nate Bargatze	CBS4..			
5 WLWT	2	News	NBCN..	WLWT	Hollyw..	★★★★★	It's a Wonderful Life (46)	James Stewart.	News			
8 WISH	12	News (N)	Inside..	ET (N)	WWE NXT (N) (Live)			News (N)	News			
9 WCPO	23	News	World..	TBA		★★★★★	Home Alone (90)	Jeopardy!	TBA			
11 WHAS	11 4	News	World..	TBA		★★★★★	Home Alone (90)	Jeopardy!	News			
15 WKPC	13	Ameri..	Edition	PBS News (N)	Christmas	RealBe..	Joy -- Christmas	BBCN..				
19 WXIX	10	FOX19	FOX19	Wheel	Jeopar..	LEGO Masters			FOX19 (N)	FOX19		
32 WLKY	5 5	News	CBSN..	Wheel	Jeopar..	Bocelli (N)	Price Is (N)	Nate Bargatze	News			
34 WBKI	7 7	Neighb..	Conners	Sheldon	BigBa..	WWE NXT (N) (Live)		BigBa..	Sheldon	LastM..		
41 WDRB	8 9	News	News	FamFe..	FamFe..	LEGO Masters		News (N) (Live)	News			
A&E	28 36	Custo..	Custo..	Custo..	Custo..	Custo..	Custo..	Christ..	Christ..	Christ..	Christ..	
AMC	29 26	★★★★★	Elf ('03)	Will Ferrell.		★★ National Lampoon's Christmas ...		★★ National Lampoon's C...				
COM	45 59	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office	Family..	
DISC	31 38	Master Distiller	Master Distiller	Master Distiller	Moonshiners	Moonshiners	Moonshiners	Moonshiners	Moonshiners	Moonshiners	Moons..	
DISN	25 29	Bluey	Bluey	Big City	Prep	★★ The Naughty Nine	(:35) Jessie	Jessie	Raven			
ESPN	32 44	NFL Prog.	E60			Football Hawai'i Bowl: South Florida vs. San Jose State (N)						
FREE	18 40	(5:25) ★ Santa Clause 3: E...	Frosty	Rudolph		★★★ Dr. Seuss' The Grinch ('18)	700Club					
FX	40 28	(5:30) ★ Guardians of the Galaxy	The Guardians			★★★ The Santa Clause ('94)	Movie					
HBO	201 17	(4:30) ★ Lord of the Rings:...	(:50) Get	Millie "Curtis"	Hard (N)	Hard Knocks	Dune					
MAX	270 73	(:25) ★★ Austenland ('13)				★★★ Bachelorette ('12)	(★ Tim & Eric's Billion D...	Movie				
NEWSNTN	20 20	The Hill (N)	On Balance (N)	Cuomo (N)	Dan Abrams	Banfield (N)	Cuomo					
PARMT	35 41	Movie	To Be Announced			★★★ Wedding Crashers ('05)						
PARSHO	221 16	★ Dear Santa ('24)	Jack Black.	Sin	(:45) Sin "Miami Vice"		Blade Runner 2049					
TMC	233 74	(:15) ★★ The First Wives Club			Home for the Holidays	★ Planes, Trains & Auto...	Movie					
TNT	27 43	Movie	(:45) ★★★★ The Wizard of Oz ('39)			★★★★★ A Christmas Story ('83)	Movie					
USA	26 33	(5:30) ★ Harry Potter & the Prisoner of Azka...				★★★ Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire ('05)						

WEDNESDAY EVENING												
Jefferson Switzerland	Trimble/ Carroll	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10	10:30	11
3 WAVE	6 2	WAV..	NBCN..	StellarHolidays	Grinch	★★★ How the Grinch Stole Christmas						
4 WTTV	4	CBS4..	CBSN..	BigBa..	Sheldon	NCIS	NCIS	NCIS	NCIS	CBS4..		
5 WLWT	2	News	NBCN..	WLWT	Hollyw..	Grinch	★★★ How the Grinch Stole Christmas					
8 WISH	12	(5:00) NBA Basketball	NBA	NBA	NBA Basketball							

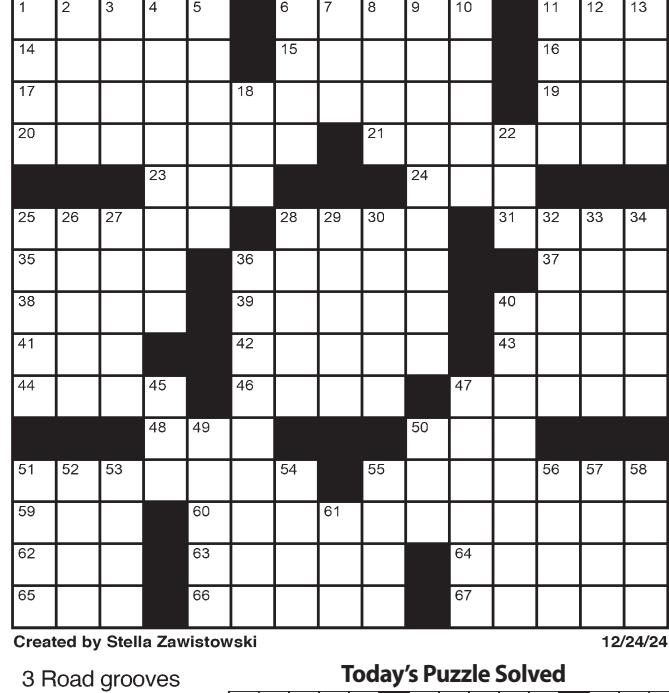
## THE Daily Commuter Puzzle by Stella Zawistowski

## ACROSS

1 Get rid of  
6 Narrow side street  
11 Run at a leisurely pace  
14 Get away from  
15 Not taut  
16 "Facts \_\_\_ facts"  
17 Field that includes algebra  
19 Dye vessel  
20 Some newspaper ads  
21 Open-toed shoes  
23 Pastor's title: Abbr.  
24 UK bathroom  
25 Cut, as logs  
28 The Liberty's league: Abbr.  
31 Pen tips  
35 Press the wrinkles from  
36 \_\_\_-order cook  
37 Tree fluid  
38 Hype up  
39 "Caveman" diet  
40 Unclothed  
41 Communication system used by Deaf people: Abbr.  
42 Church table  
43 Very uncommon  
44 Make over  
46 Smell awful  
47 Walked back and forth  
48 Single-\_\_ plastic  
50 Ballerina's hairstyle  
51 Creamy Italian cheese  
55 Set on fire  
59 Historical period  
60 Book lover  
62 "Hard-boiled" item  
63 Nestle snugly  
64 Admit: 2 wds.  
65 Golf peg  
66 All set  
67 Op-ed, for example

## DOWN

1 Big rig  
2 Big family



Created by Stella Zawistowski

12/24/24

## Today's Puzzle Solved



R. ERIC  
THOMAS  
ASKING ERIC



## Mother gets meaner, spreads lies after deaths

Dear Eric: My father passed from cancer in 2020. He and my mother were married for 53 years. One year later, my only sibling died suddenly from a massive heart attack. So, it's just my mother and I left. We have never had a good relationship. Very tense, lots of jealousy (her, not me).

Both my parents were very close to my children growing up. Since my dad and brother have passed, my mom is increasingly mean, angry, rude and spreads rumors about me and my kids. To the point where she told several people, including my long-term boyfriend, that I cheated on my ex-husband (the father of my children). That is an out-and-out lie.

I am at a place in my life where I am no longer willing to allow her to disturb my peace. My question is, as her only living child, am I in the wrong? We live two states away, when I do see her, we are fine in short spurts. But unless she is here visiting, there is no contact by my choice. Can you offer some advice?

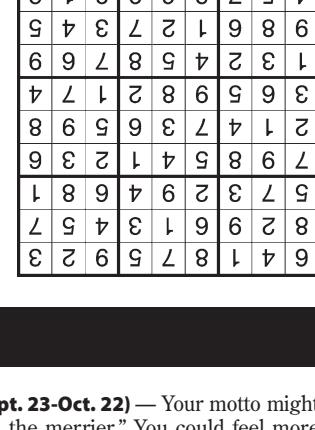
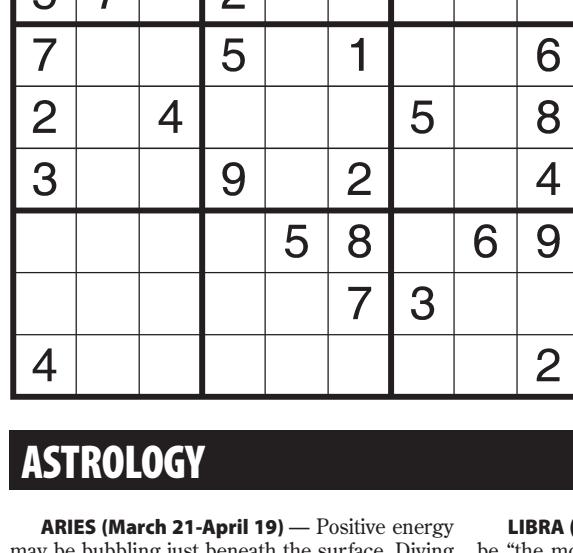
— Distant Relatives

Dear Relatives: I'm very sorry for the losses you endured. Navigating grief is hard enough without also having to navigate a contentious and possibly abusive relationship with your mother as well. Given that things were never great with you, and that her grief process may be prompting her to act out in unkind and unhealthy ways, the boundary you've set sounds like a healthy one. There's healing to be done all around, but it can't be done if your relationship with your mother is creating new emotional injuries.

It could be productive to tell her, in a calm moment, about why you're setting a boundary and what it is. "From my perspective, every time we are together [x happens] and that's not something that I'm willing to endure. I'd like to find a different way of relating to each other. If you're interested in working on this together, I'm open to it. But, as we figure that out, these shorter visits are the best option for me."

Relationships evolve over their lifetimes. For them to remain healthy, we have to advocate for what we need and be clear about what's not acceptable.

## SUDOKU



## ASTROLOGY

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19) — Positive energy may be bubbling just beneath the surface. Diving into household chores, games, sports, or hobbies with enthusiasm could make it more enjoyable. Your latest crush might not mind what you do, as long as you are doing it together.

**Taurus** (April 20-May 20) — When you're in a party mood, it can be contagious! Make calls and send out last-minute emails to ensure no one feels left out of the loop. Despite the merry spirit around you it's not a good time to ask for special favors.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20) — Your thirst for excitement may need a suitable outlet. Outings to view holiday lighting displays with others are a definite possibility. Consider spreading some good cheer by picking up the phone to get up to date with long lost friends.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22) — Someone might be planning a pleasant surprise for you behind the scenes. A chance encounter could spark a promising new connection, but the outcome might be unpredictable. It may be smart to stick to what you know already works.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22) — Remember, whoever takes on the financial commitment calls the shots. You may need to stand up for your desires, but don't go overboard. It's the holiday season, try to foster more support and tolerance toward the marginalized.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Spreading kindness like breadcrumbs along your holiday path could show how much you care. Everyone deserves to feel loved and appreciated. Consider giving compliments to the cooks, praise your loved ones, or flatter a friend.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Your motto might be "the more, the merrier." You could feel more eager than usual to show friendliness towards new people. Embrace your love for entertainment, wholesome fun, and partying to your heart's content at holiday festivities.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — Spreading goodwill generously could help to promote the desired response or outcome. Everyone deserves a share of your openhandedness. Make sure to check on friends or acquaintances who might appreciate a holiday invitation.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Showcase your unique strengths and radiate confidence when interacting with others. People may be more likely to keep their promises now. Upcoming social gatherings could have a magical sense of camaraderie and togetherness.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Good deeds are likely rewarded; even small gestures could bring on big smiles of appreciation. Don't hesitate to act on a charitable whim by letting go of any inner reservations and doing something exciting, bold, and daring.

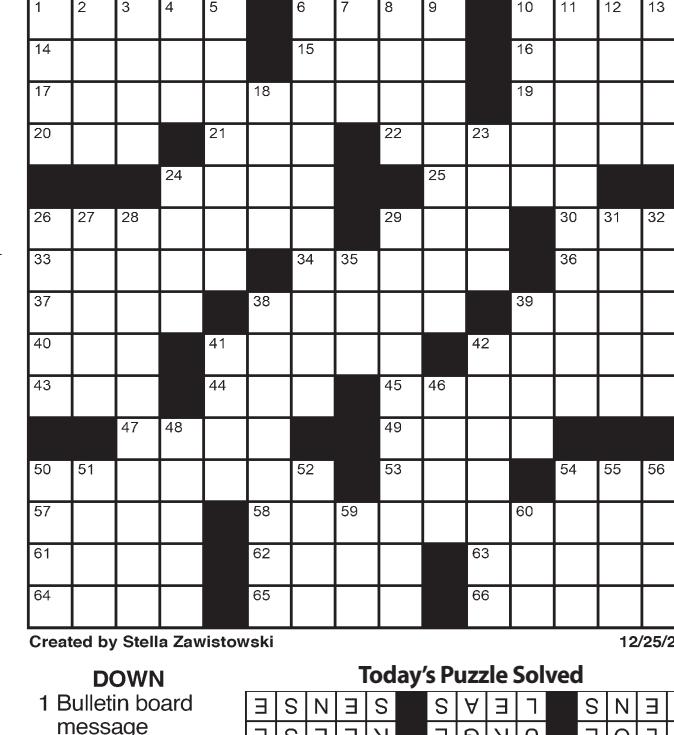
**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Even if someone doesn't say much, it doesn't mean he or she doesn't have warm feelings deep within. You may have a chance to brighten someone's day by reaching out to friends and family. Invite others along to share holiday cheer.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20) — Serious and deep subjects might not fly well now, try to keep topics easy to manage for everyone. Balancing the needs of loved ones and career demands might require some skillful maneuvering. Don't forget to take time for yourself.

## THE Daily Commuter Puzzle by Stella Zawistowski

## ACROSS

1 Longstocking (literary character)  
6 "Voila!"  
10 Sammy of baseball  
14 Perfume brand since 1977  
15 British noble  
16 Stratford-upon-  
17 Christmas visitor: 2 wds.  
19 Departed  
20 Disapproving noise  
21 "Golly!"  
22 Kids' racing vehicles  
24 Knights' titles  
25 Frees (of)  
26 Annual reference book  
29 Crow's sound  
30 Night-school class: Abbr.  
33 Feudal lord  
34 Muscat native  
36 Airport posting: Abbr.  
37 Predict  
38 "No bet": 2 wds.  
39 Jewish homeland  
40 Sea urchin at a sushi bar  
41 Account holders  
42 Tubular pasta  
43 Arizona clock setting: Abbr.  
44 Halves of quarts: Abbr.  
45 Comes forth  
47 Actor Alan  
49 Bank takeback  
50 Choices  
53 Alley (basketball play)  
54 Explosive: Abbr.  
55 \_\_\_ or shine  
58 Indicator of trends  
61 \_\_\_ vera  
62 Push to act  
63 Actress  
Witherspoon  
64 Microscope part  
65 Meadows  
66 Get a feeling



Created by Stella Zawistowski

12/25/24

## Today's Puzzle Solved



12/25/24

1 Bulletin board message  
2 Bitter beers: Abbr.  
3 Coral or rose  
4 Place  
5 Envision  
6 Astronomers' devices  
7 Motorist's club: Abbr.  
8 Medication  
9 Election losers  
10 Pre-entree dish  
11 Supervising  
12 Cottony-feeling  
13 Pantry pests  
18 Actor Michael  
23 Fuzzy fruit  
24 Very wise  
26 Photo book  
27 Detroit's NFL team  
31 Pantry pests  
32 Building material  
33 Loch \_\_\_ Monster  
34 Cedar or oak  
48 Subway system parts  
50 Spoken  
51 Very light-colored  
52 Dry as a desert  
54 Afterward  
55 Loch \_\_\_ Monster  
56 Cedar or oak  
59 NYC airport: Abbr.  
60 Casual top

## Grandmother shut out of Christmas celebrations

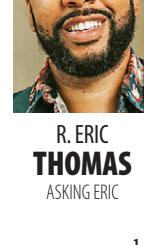
Dear Eric: When my only son and his wife got married and had kids, I was informed that Christmas Day would just be for them to celebrate. I said OK.

For decades, I have given my son and his family (wife and two kids) nice gifts for Christmas. We are talking about hundreds of dollars. For a while, I would receive a small gift, such as a bottle of homemade vanilla, a rose-scented tin of salve made by a friend of the wife or a coffee cup or some such as a gift from the family. Same with my birthday. I have never received a gift from the grandkids.

Last year, I let them know I would no longer be "exchanging" gifts with the parents but gifts to the grandkids (who are now teenagers with jobs) will continue. That year, I got them electronics and hoodies. I got nothing from anyone. Not even an acknowledgement from the kids. I have always had to deliver the gifts or call to see if they received them. This year, it is only going to be a Christmas card. Am I being overly sensitive?

— Empty Stocking

Dear Stocking: No, you are not being



R. ERIC  
THOMAS  
ASKING ERIC

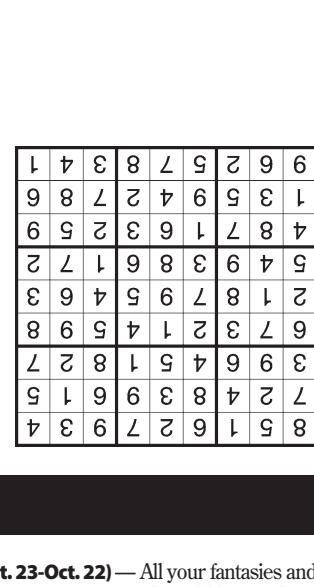
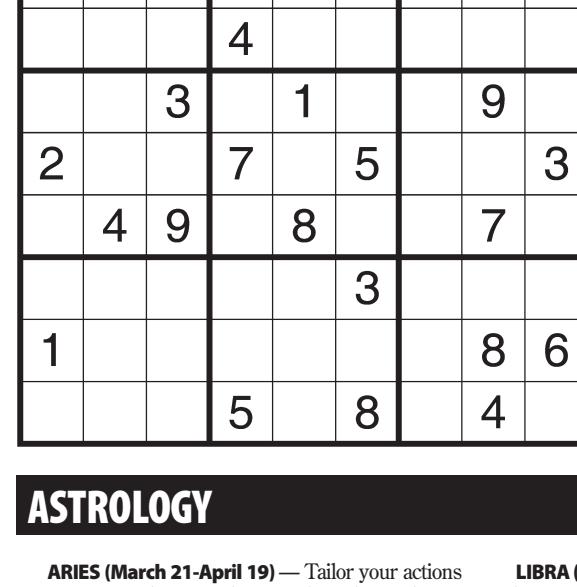
overly sensitive. Every family has their own traditions and needs. And no one is obligated to give — or accept — a gift. But it sure does make me sad that your desire to make this holiday special isn't being reciprocated.

Part of it may be a misalignment of expectations. You've given generously, into the hundreds of dollars. I'm curious if your son and daughter-in-law have different values or wants around gifting that are either not being expressed or not being heard. They should tell you clearly.

Similarly, when you decided to stop giving gifts to the adults, I'm curious if your expectations were that your son would realize that you weren't getting what you wanted and make a change.

It's worth talking it through a little more but try to focus on the want behind the want. I suspect that what you're craving is connection — and perhaps an invitation to the family Christmas. It makes sense that you'd try to show your love from a distance through gift-giving, and it makes sense that it would hurt not to have it reciprocated. But perhaps the tradition of gifts is getting in the way on both sides. If you'd like to be invited or would like to find an alternate way of celebrating and being together, that's a great gift to ask for.

## SUDOKU



## ASTROLOGY

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19) — Tailor your actions to suit your audience. What may have been charming yesterday might be disruptive today, especially in different gatherings. It may help to be on your best behavior and avoid acting on whims for the best results.

**Taurus** (April 20-May 20) — Remember, everyone has their blind spots. Someone unexpected might turn out to be a better friend than you initially thought. A gift could reveal that you and a loved one share the same aspirations, dreams and adventurous fantasies.

**Gemini** (May 21-June 20) — You might feel smarter than average, but you could need something stronger than just brainpower to make a difference today. Think of ways to use diplomacy to charm those who may only appear on your doorstep once or twice a year.

**Cancer** (June 21-July 22) — Embrace your joy and what you're currently thankful for. It may be the perfect day to let loose and have fun like a child without worries or concerns. Those you join at a holiday table may admire and cherish your every action.

**Leo** (July 23-Aug. 22) — Your infectious charm and enthusiasm could lift everyone's spirits. Everyone may need to unwind after a holiday dinner, so grab a sled, toss a basketball, or find other ways to get your heart pumping. Cherish the moments you have with loved ones.

**Aquarius** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Do what you can to bring "peace on earth, good will towards others." This season, focus on the blessings you have and extend a helping hand to those in need. Focus on finding new ways to give rather than solely on receiving.

**Libra** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — All your fantasies and wishes could come true. You might feel like you have a bit more wisdom than usual and can fully embrace the spirit of forgiveness. Enjoying a wonderful, memorable time with loved ones may not cost you a thing.

**Scorpio** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — Beauty is in the eye of the beholder. While treasures, treats, and toys might bring joy, nothing is more pleasing than the warm smile and happy face of a loved one. Consider playing some holiday music to brighten the atmosphere.

**Sagittarius** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Pray for peace on earth. You might not need to spend a lot of money to enjoy the true spirit of the holiday — you could find joy in tinkering with your hobbies or sharing your interest with loved ones. Let your generous nature shine.

**Capricorn** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — You could end this day by sharing memorable moments with someone special. Think about treating yourself to a treat today since there's no need to deny yourself simple pleasures. Your good taste is evident, and you are appreciated.

**Aquarius** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Discretion may win you favor with others. A successful relationship requires much more than just physical attraction so engage someone's mind by sharing your deeper self. Someone may trust you with sensitive information.

**Pisces** (Feb. 19-March 20) — Sometimes, it might be best to compromise or surrender gracefully. Even if you don't share the same interests as others, you can still enjoy each other's company and participate in holiday festivities. Accept people for being themselves.

## Hanover women claim win in Puerto Rico

BY THE COURIER STAFF

Hanover women's basketball wrapped up its trip to Puerto Rico with a 69-41 win over Stevenson in the Ruben Rodriguez Classic San Juan.

Hanover built a 21-10 lead after the first quarter and expanded on that margin from there, leading 37-20 at the half and 55-26 after three quarters.

Grace Bezold had 16 points and eight rebounds to lead Hanover while Sammy Berman had 13 points, seven rebounds and five steals. Katherine Benter had 10 points and six rebounds.

Hanover, now 9-2 on the season, has the rest of the Christmas break off before traveling to Bluffton on Saturday, Jan. 4.

.258 with 19 homers and 66 RBIs.

Trevino, 32, made his big league debut with Texas in 2018. He was an All-Star and Gold Glove winner with New York in 2022, hitting .248 with 11 homers and 43 RBIs in 115 games.

## REDS

FROM PAGE B5

Tyler Stephenson at catcher. The 28-year-old Stephenson is coming off a breakout season, batting

## Wall gives broadcasting a try, while hoping for one more NBA shot

BY TIM REYNOLDS  
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

ORLANDO, Fla. — John Wall was at the G League Winter Showcase last year, trying out, hoping to get back in the game.

He did the same thing this year, without stepping foot on the court.

The No. 1 pick in the 2010 NBA draft and five-time All-Star made his broadcasting debut this weekend, handling the analyst duties for a pair of games at the G League event in Orlando. He has not officially retired as a player but knows the time is coming when he'll have to figure out what to do next, and broadcasting clearly appeals to him.

"I'm always going to critique myself," Wall said. "I can get a lot better. I'm learning more and more, but for me, it's talking about basketball — what I love to do. It's what I do when I'm home, watching with my friends and kids."

The idea was born in a fairly simple way. When he is home in Miami, watching games with friends or his kids, they evidently all end up telling him the same thing.

"They're like, 'Shut up and let us watch,'" Wall said.

With that, the notion of going to TV — where talking is encour-

aged — evidently made sense. He did a pair of games back-to-back on Saturday, basically broadcasting for five consecutive hours with only a 20-minute break between matchups.

Wall talked about the games the way an elite player would, breaking down defenses in real time, explaining mindsets and dropping in a few anecdotes. When an Iowa player got hit in the mouth during a game against Sioux Falls, Wall spent a minute or so telling a story about what it was like to go straight to the dentist from a game after a similar hit.

He said he enjoyed the opportunity.

"I was here last year working out for a couple teams," Wall said. "I was on the other court, working out before games. That was fun. This was fun."

Wall is 34, still looks fit, still works out regularly at the University of Miami and says he would give anything for one more chance in the NBA. He was selected for the All-Star Game in five consecutive seasons for Washington from 2014 through 2018, even while dealing with some injuries in that span — including ones necessitating surgeries on both knees in 2016.

But six years ago this week,

the decision was made for him to have season-ending surgery to address issues with his left heel. He wound up tearing his Achilles tendon in 2019, needing another yearlong recovery process. He never played for the Wizards again and has been limited to 74 games since with Houston and the Los Angeles Clippers.

He could still play, too. Wall averaged 16.3 points and 6.1 assists in those stints with the Rockets and Clippers. An abdominal strain was the beginning of the end of his stint with the Clippers, and Wall hasn't played a game since Jan. 13, 2023.

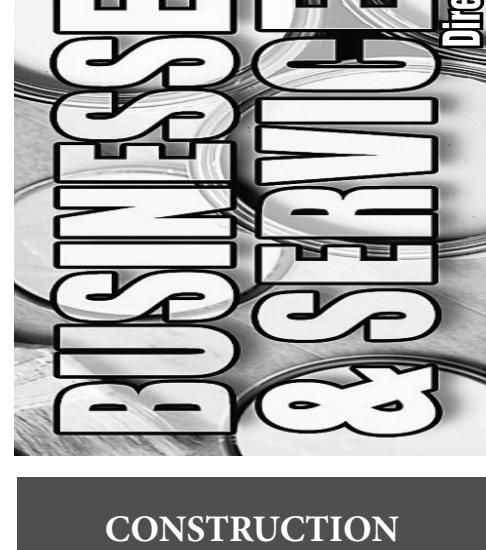
"You do all you can to take care of yourself, and injuries are still part of the game of basketball," Wall said. "Yeah, I think about that. The time I had, I enjoyed. I get frustrated at times. But God don't make no mistakes."

It's unclear what's next for Wall. The broadcast gig at the G League event was a one-day plan, and he's open to more. In the interim, he'll keep working out in Coral Gables and hoping that a team gives him one more shot.

"It'd mean the world," Wall said. "You want to go out on your own terms. I want to finish it the way I want. If I play my last game, I want to walk off the court my way."

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